DAILY EXPRESS

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Terminally ill mum calls on 'shameless' peers to stop blocking assisted dying law

SOPHIE'S PLEA: DON'T SNATCH HOPE AWAY FROM US

EXCLUSIVE

BY **HANNA GEISSLER** Health Editor

TERMINALLY ill mother Sophie Blake has issued a desperate plea to seven peers blocking the assisted dying bill in the House of Lords.

The 52-year-old, who has stage four breast cancer, fears a change in the law will come too late for her if a small group of hardline opponents succeeds in talking out the landmark legislation.

She said yesterday: "While these shameless Lords try to block the bill, terminally ill people are seeing their conditions progress or cancers spread, and living in fear of the pain and suffering that may lie ahead.

"There have been three funerals in the last month for my much-loved friends from the cancer community. As

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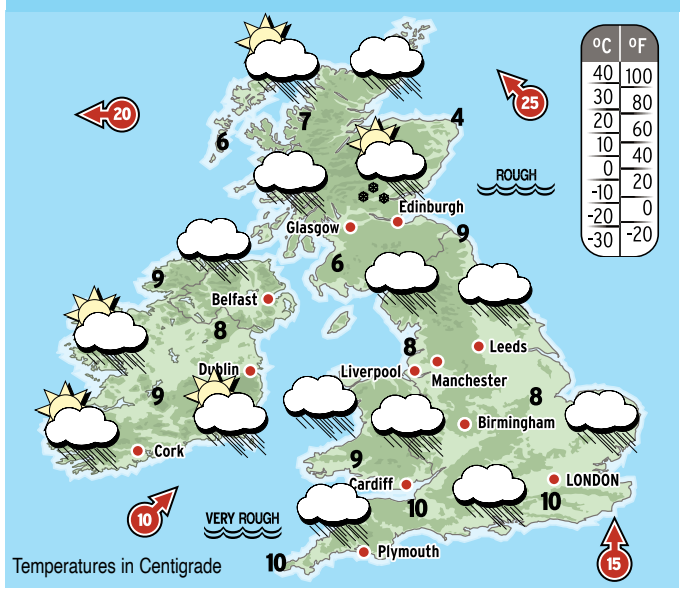
DX1ST

WEATHER FORECAST



Today's summary: Cool, rainy dawn; showery dusk

North West: Dull and wet with rain or drizzle, mainly light and patchy. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 9C (48F).

Northern Ireland: Cloudy, with heavy showers at first and light rain later. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 8C (46F).

Wales: Clouds with light rain. Sun breaks with heavier downpours. Brisk winds, cool temperatures. High 10C (50F).

Midlands: Wet with drizzle or rain at times, mainly light in nature. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 10C (50F).

North East/Yorks: Dull and grey with outbreaks of light rain and drizzle. Light winds. High 7C (45F).

Scotland: Cloudy with periods of drizzle. Clearing later. Breezy, becoming chilly. High 6C (43F).

East Anglia: Overcast and wet with patchy light rain or drizzle. Gentle southerly winds. High 8C (46F).

London/South East: Mainly cloudy with the chance of light showers. Moderate south-westerly winds. High 11C (52F).

South: Sunshine and showers will be replaced by cloud and rain later. Moderate northerly winds. High 10C (50F).

South West: Mostly cloudy with the chance of heavy showers. Gentle north-westerly winds. High 10C (50F).

Channel Isles: Mostly cloudy with the chance of showers, heavy later. Fresh westerly winds. High 10C (50F).

Sea: North Sea: Moderate. Irish Sea: Very rough. Channel: Moderate.

UK OUTLOOK TOMORROW: Expect breezy conditions with persistent rain in many areas. Temperatures will be cool, with breaks of sunshine in the afternoon.

SIX-DAY FORECAST

Temperatures in Centigrade

	SAT min	SAT max	SUN min	SUN max	MON min	MON max	TUE min	TUE max	WED min	WED max	THU min	THU max
London	5	10	5	10	6	10	6	10	6	10	4	9
Belfast	5	8	4	8	5	7	5	7	5	7	4	7
Birmingham	4	9	4	9	5	8	5	8	5	8	4	8
Cardiff	5	10	4	10	5	9	5	9	5	9	3	8
Glasgow	5	8	3	8	4	8	4	7	4	7	3	7
Manchester	4	9	4	9	5	8	5	8	5	9	4	7
Newcastle	4	8	4	7	4	7	4	6	4	7	3	6
Norwich	5	10	5	8	5	7	4	8	5	8	4	7
Plymouth	7	11	7	10	7	10	7	10	7	10	6	10

Britain yesterday

24 hours to 5pm	SUN (hrs)	RAIN (ins)	TEMP (min)	TEMP (max)
Aberdeen	0.0	0.28	5	5
Aberporth	1.1	0.03	4	7
Alnwick	0.0	0.33	5	6
Belfast	1.8	0.02	4	7
Birmingham	0.0	0.01	1	5
B'mouth	0.5	0.02	3	8
Bristol	1.0	0.03	2	8
Cardiff	0.9	0.03	4	7
Durham	0.0	0.03	3	4
Edinburgh	0.1	0.04	2	6
Glasgow	0.4	0.00	1	6
Hull	0.0	0.00	4	4
Ipswich	0.0	0.01	2	4
Leeds	0.1	0.03	3	4
Lincoln	0.0	0.01	1	4
London	1.7	0.01	1	7
Manchester	0.0	0.00	1	6
Oxford	0.6	0.01	1	6
S'hampton	1.8	0.01	5	8
St Andrews	0.2	0.20	5	6

Britain Extremes: (24 hours to 11pm Wednesday) **Warmest:** Gosport, Fleetlands, 12c (53f). **Coldest:** Cavendish, -2c (29f). **Wettest:** Fyvie Castle, 0.89ins. **Sunniest:** Shawbury, 7.3hrs.

Moon, sun and tides

MOON rises: 1.18pm, sets: 6.31am
SUN rises London: 7.41am, sets: 4.46pm
Manchester rises: 7.57am, sets: 4.47pm

Full Moon 01 February

HIGH TIDE

London B'ge	(11.10am), (11.57pm)
Liverpool	(8.44am), (9.18pm)
Greenock	(9.55am), (10.51pm)
Dover	(8.47am), (9.24pm)

Lighting-up times

Belfast	4.58pm-8.14am
Birmingham	4.50pm-7.50am
Bristol	4.56pm-7.49am
Glasgow	4.46pm-8.13am
London	4.46pm-7.40am
Manchester	4.47pm-7.55am
Newcastle	4.39pm-7.58am

Europe forecast

Today			Tomorrow		
Amsterdam	Cloudy	5C/41F	Amsterdam	Rain	8C/46F
Brussels	Drizzle	8C/46F	Brussels	Cloudy	10C/50F
Dublin	Rain	10C/50F	Dublin	Drizzle	8C/46F
Frankfurt	Cloudy	5C/41F	Frankfurt	Rain	5C/41F
Geneva	Rain	6C/43F	Geneva	Rain	6C/43F
Lisbon	Rain	16C/61F	Lisbon	Rain	15C/59F
Madrid	Showers	11C/52F	Madrid	Fair	12C/54F
Paris	Rain	11C/52F	Paris	Rain	10C/50F
Rome	Drizzle	14C/57F	Rome	Showers	14C/57F

Around the world yesterday

		C	F			C	F			C	F
Amsterdam	Snow	0	32	Hong Kong	Cloudy	19	66	New York	Cloudy	-5	23
Athens	Thndr	16	61	Istanbul	Rain	15	59	Nice	Sunny	12	54
Barcelona	Fair	13	55	Jersey	Cloudy	6	43	Nicosia	Fair	17	63
Berlin	Cloudy	-1	30	Larnaca	Fair	19	66	Perth	Sunny	33	91
Budapest	Rain	5	41	Las Palmas	Fair	21	70	Prague	Snow	-1	30
Cairo	Sunny	19	66	Los Angeles	Fair	20	68	Singapore	Fair	29	84
Cape Town	Sunny	28	82	Luxor	Sunny	21	70	Stockholm	Snow	-4	25
Casablanca	Shwrs	18	64	Malaga	Cloudy	22	72	Sydney	Fair	28	82
Corfu	Rain	12	54	Mallorca	Cloudy	15	59	Tel Aviv	Shwrs	18	64
Dublin	Cloudy	6	43	Malta	-	15	59	Tenerife	Fair	21	70
Dubrovnik	Cloudy	12	54	Melbourne	Fair	23	73	Toronto	Cloudy	-10	14
Faro	Shwrs	17	63	Miami	Fair	20	68	Tunis	Cloudy	16	61
Florence	Rain	9	48	Moscow	Snow	-11	12	Venice	Cloudy	6	43
Gibraltar	Shwrs	17	63	Nairobi	Sunny	26	79	Vienna	Rain	3	37
Guernsey	Cloudy	6	43	New Delhi	Sunny	15	59	Warsaw	Cloudy	-4	25

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1.2 million theft probes ended early by police

Closed before suspect identified

BY **MICHAEL KNOWLES**
Home Affairs Editor

MORE than 3,346 theft investigations were closed every day before a suspect was identified last year, the Daily Express can reveal.

Police shelved, on average, 801 shoplifting probes, 323 burglary cases and 758 theft offences involving a vehicle every day in the year to September.

And 1,221,526 theft investigations were binned before a suspect was identified, while another 279,265 collapsed due to a lack of evidence. This is almost double the 153,799 in the year to September 2015.

The Home Office said just 7.8% of all crimes resulted in a suspect being charged in the year to September.

Shoplifting surged to 519,381 in the same period, up from 492,660 in 2024, the Office for National Statistics revealed.

Shoplifting cases have soared

Max Wilkinson, Liberal Democrat spokesperson for Home Affairs, said: "Shoplifting has become the new normal, and it is small business owners who are paying the price.

"Years of Conservative failure hollowed out neighbourhood policing, leaving communities exposed and crimes like shoplifting going unpunished. Despite promising change, the Labour government is not moving fast enough to fix the damage." And figures out yesterday revealed rapes and sexual assaults reported to police have soared to record highs. Officers recorded 214,816 sex crimes, including 74,265 rapes.

Meanwhile 499 killings were recorded in the year to September, the lowest number since 2003 while knife crime has dropped by 9% to 50,430, the ONS said.

Its figures show 43% of offences were assaults "with intent to cause serious harm", and 41% were linked to robberies. Knife killings fell by 23% to 174.

Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood said: "We are having real success tackling the crimes that terrorise communities. But the crimes that tear at the fabric of communities, like shop theft and shop robbery, continue to rise and we must do more.

"That is why we are putting 13,000 more neighbourhood officers on the beat."

Rail tickets seller calls for delays pay reform

BY **NEIL LANCEFIELD**

TRAIN passengers are missing out on more than £80million a year in compensation for delays due to "unacceptable" claims processes, according to analysis.

Online ticket retailer Trainline, which produced the estimate, called for rail reform that "focuses on what matters" to passengers.

Customers who buy tickets through a train operator's website or app can often make "one click" claims when a service is affected.

Form-filling

But access to this is denied to the one in four passengers who use independent sellers such as Trainline. They have to use a lengthier process.

Trainline chief executive Jody Ford said: "Six minutes of form-filling is unacceptable."

The firm is calling on the government to enable "one click" claims to be made by all online ticket buyers.

Its survey found 29% of passengers failed to claim disruption compensation last year.

The Department for Transport and Rail Delivery Group was contacted for comment.

CORRECTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

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Pictures: KARWAI TANG/WIREIMAGE

Barry's Beatles look at the premiere of his new film, Crime 101

Ringo star Barry is top of the mops

BY **JAMIE DOWNHAM**

BARRY Keoghan nails The Beatles' mop-top look after growing out his hair to play Ringo Starr.

The 33-year-old Dubliner will portray the legendary drummer in four upcoming movies by Sam Mendes.

He revealed the new do, which resembles Ringo's from the Fab Four's early days, at the London premiere of Crime 101 in which he stars with Halle Berry and Chris Hemsworth.

Barry admitted he was terrified to meet Ringo, saying: "I sat opposite him and I could not look at him because I was nervous.

"His wife Barbara was there and she said, 'You can look at him'."

Ringo with his Beatles mates Paul, John and George circa 1965 and, above, how actor Barry normally looks

The Pothole of Hastings

Bayeux Tapestry deal put at risk by poor state of Britain's roads

BY **BRIAN DILLON**

THAT'S one in the eye for history fans...Plans to bring the Bayeux Tapestry to the British Museum could be scuppered by potholes.

French experts claim our crumbling roads are too much of a risk for the 1,000-year-old artefact depicting the Battle of Hastings.

The fragile 230ft tapestry is due to be transported to London next year while its home in Normandy undergoes renovations.

But conservationists fear the "vibrations and shocks" could rip it apart, and are calling on judges to cancel the deal

Campaigners are going to France's highest court, the Conseil d'Etat, to contest the authority of Emmanuel Macron to loan the tapestry to Britain.

Court documents claim the French President made a legal "error of judgment" by agreeing to send the tapestry to London, according to reports.

The Treasury has signed off on an £800million insurance package to cover any risk, and the British Museum has agreed with France a maximum level of vibration the tapestry would withstand on the journey.

But experts say even the smallest potholes could cause severe damage.

Julien Lacaze, president of French heritage group Sites and Monuments, which launched the legal challenge, said: "If [the roads] are in poor condition that is not a good thing. The risks are associated with handling the tapestry and the vibrations during a long journey. They must be limited to the bare minimum."

It is not the first battle by French conservationists against the loan. Court documents question why consistent warnings have been brushed aside in the lead-up to the deal. Last year French cultural affairs officials shared a video saying the tapestry is "too fragile to be moved over a long distance".

The documents also include a 2022 study of the condition of the tapestry, setting out the risks of transporting it to Britain.

It included examples of potential shock sources such as "breaks in the load, a defect on a road (sudden change in level, hole in the surface, etc)".

It added that there is no solution to eliminate all vibrations during transportation and that therefore "all long-distance transport is strongly discouraged".

French experts are battling to scupper tapestry loan

FROM PAGE ONE

I try to focus on living and making memories with my daughter Maya, I'm aware any further delay to this legislation could mean it comes too late for me.

"We were given hope we would be able to live in peace with our terminal illnesses – now that hope is being taken from us."

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill passed two major votes among MPs last year and was sent to the House of Lords for scrutiny last June.

It will only become law if it passes a third reading with the peers and both Houses agree on the final text before the end of the parliamentary session, expected in May.

Supporters believe a majority of the Lords would vote in favour of the bill if it reached a third reading vote.

But seven hardline opponents have been accused of frustrating the process by tabling hundreds of amendments and filibustering with long, repetitive speeches in debates.

Backers led by Labour MP Kim Leadbeater and Lord Charlie Falconer have now warned the bill looks set to run out of time.

Drugs are keeping Sophie's cancer stable for now and she has regular scans, but it is incurable and could progress at any time.

She said a small group of peers should not be allowed to "override the settled will of elected representatives".

Sophie, from Brighton, added: "It's disgraceful that these opponents are using their power and privilege to block the will of the public and democracy in this country. It feels like they're being allowed to ride roughshod over democracy with no accountability.

"Terminally ill people have gone from feeling like we were finally listened to last year to having this small group of peers refuse to acknowledge us, repeatedly dismissing the reality of our experiences while claiming they are protecting vulnerable people. Aren't dying people vulnerable too?"

Opponents have claimed they are simply carrying out thorough scrutiny of a bill they believe to be dangerously flawed.

But they have been criticised for proposing unreasonable amendments, including a requirement for anyone seeking an assisted death to have a pregnancy test and a ban on travelling in the year before death.

Analysis by campaign groups My Death, My Decision and Humanists UK found the seven blockers put forward 665 of the almost 1,200 amendments tabled by January 22.

They include Baroness Ilora Finlay, a professor of palliative medicine who proposed 190 amendments, and former Paralympian Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson, who put forward 130.

Crossbencher Baroness Grey-Thompson has described the bill as "badly written" and in need of many changes, particularly those aimed at preventing coercion.

Ms Leadbeater rejected this yesterday and said opponents were trying to carry out "a classic filibuster in the House of Lords". She added: "There is no way this piece of legislation needs over 1,000 amendments. It's a very robust piece of legislation. This handful of people are showing no signs of trying to debate this subject efficiently, to give the bill time to pass through the House of Lords and return it to the Commons, to the elected chamber. That's deeply worrying.

"So we are looking at what other options are available to us, were the bill to end up running out of time." As the clock runs down, Ms Leadbeater and Lord Falconer have said the Parliament Act could be invoked to bypass the House of Lords.

If the bill falls in May, it can be reintroduced in the next parliamentary session.

The 1911 Act says that if the same bill is passed by the Commons in two consecutive sessions, it can become law without the consent of the Lords. Ms Leadbeater said: "Whilst it's an unusual thing to happen, it's not something that has never been done before and it is a perfectly legitimate part of what is possible within Parliament."

She added: "I worry about the reputation of the House of Lords – who nobody voted

EXPRESS VOTE

Are delays to assisted dying bill harming reputation of the House of Lords?

YES: 0901 133 4440
NO: 0901 133 4441
Calls cost 50p plus network access charge

Yes text DXYES to 63333
No text DXNO to 63333
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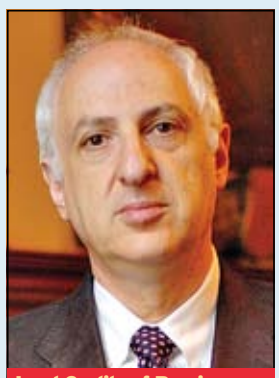
'These few people are showing no signs of trying to debate this efficiently'

Lord Goodman of Wycombe
61 amendments tabled

Lord Sandhurst
71 amendments tabled

Lord Moylan
46 amendments tabled



Lord Carlile of Berriew
72 amendments tabled

Baroness Finlay of Llandaff
190 amendments tabled

Bill sponsors Kim Leadbeater and Lord Falconer in Westminster yesterday

HISTORIC PARLIAMENT ACT CAN RESCUE BILL

BY **HANNA GEISSLER**
Health Editor

THE Parliament Act of 1911 is a rarely used piece of legislation that stops the House of Lords overruling the House of Commons.

When the chambers cannot agree, it states that a bill passed by the Commons in two consecutive sessions can become law without the consent of the Lords.

So if the assisted dying bill falls this spring, it could be reintroduced by an MP drawn high in the Private Member's Bill ballot, which allows backbenchers to propose new laws.

This would depend on an MP who supports the change – and is willing to take on such a momentous and contentious issue – being drawn.

They would also need to be high up in the ballot order to ensure enough time.

Or the government could intervene to allocate parliamentary time for the bill to be considered in the Commons once more.

Uproar

It has remained staunchly neutral on the issue, despite Sir Keir Starmer's known support for assisted dying.

Simply allowing time for the issue to be resolved would not necessarily compromise this neutrality but could cause uproar among Labour backbenchers who oppose the bill.

The legislation's future may therefore depend on whether the Prime Minister is willing to risk a constitutional row.

For the Parliament Act to apply, the Commons would have to pass the bill in its current form.

However, experts believe that some amendments would still be possible, particularly if the Lords agreed to work efficiently the second time around.

Former Clerk of the House of Commons Sir David Natzler said that the act meant that "the Commons has primacy, ultimately, in legislative matters".

He added: "That was decided over 100 years ago. It's not a matter of bullying [the Lords], it's a matter of following the rules."

Baroness Grey-Thompson
130 amendments tabled

Baroness Coffey
94 amendments tabled

Seven blockers and bizarre amendments

RECENT analysis found just seven peers had proposed more than half of the amendments tabled in the Lords. Hardline opponents accounted for 665 of the 1,195 changes put forward by January 22.

Examples of impractical amendments include a suggestion from Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson that clinical trials should be required for the life-ending substance used, something that would be impossible for a drug designed to cause death.

Former deputy PM Baroness Therese Coffey suggested that anyone who has left the UK in the past 12 months should be ineligible for assisted dying, effectively banning terminally ill people from taking holidays or perhaps travelling to see family for one last time.

She also proposed that the terminally ill person must be physically present in a court open to the public, which would be difficult and distressing for many patients. The analysis was carried out by campaign groups My Death, My Decision and Humanists UK, which both support assisted dying.

They described the tally of amendments as "an outrageous number" – more than four times the next-most amended bill this session. Opponents have also dominated speeches during sitting Fridays, speaking for 75% of the time.

BY **HANNA GEISSLER**

for, nobody elected. They should not, on that basis, have the power to try to block something that has been voted for by people who were democratically elected."

The Spen Valley MP also described "anger, upset and frustration" among MPs who spent months respectfully and constructively debating the legislation. Ms Leadbeater was joined by Sir David Natzler, a former clerk of the House of Commons (the principal constitutional adviser to the chamber).

He dismissed suggestions by some opponents that invoking the Parliament Act would amount to a "nuclear option" or bullying.

Sir David said the act was a framework that gives a statutory basis to the primacy of the elected Commons over the unelected Lords.

He added: "After all these hours in the Lords, it is odd there has not been a single vote, so nobody knows what the Lords want."

If the bill falls in the first session, its passage into law will likely be delayed until spring 2027.

OPINION: PAGE 12

Dying mum Sophie Blake

DX1ST

BACKLASH AFTER GOVERNMENT

‘Cruel’ Waspi to declaration

Suella Braverman now with Reform

Kemi ‘may be sued’ over Suella mental health slur

BY **KATIE HARRIS**

REFORM UK has threatened to sue Kemi Badenoch unless she apologises to Suella Braverman over claims about her mental health.

A Tory spokesman said the party “did all we could to look after Suella’s mental health, but she was clearly very unhappy” in a statement after her defection to Nigel Farage’s outfit on Monday.

The response was retracted hours later after a backlash and the claim was removed from a reissued statement.

But Reform’s lawyers have written to Tory HQ accusing the party of a “defamatory smear” and demanding a public apology from leader Mrs Badenoch by 4pm today.

The letter said: “The statement was not a throwaway remark.

“It was a deliberate assertion, presented as fact and as deriving from the party’s purported internal knowledge, that Ms Braverman’s conduct was explicable by reference to her mental health and that the Conservative Party had taken steps to ‘look after’ it.

“That allegation is plainly capable of carrying a defamatory meaning, namely that Ms Braverman was suffering from a mental health condition affecting her judgment or fitness.

“Ms Braverman does not suffer, and has not suffered, from any mental health condition and there was no factual basis whatsoever for the allegation made.”

Ms Braverman wrote: “No private or public apology has been made to me.”

Mrs Badenoch admitted the statement should never have gone out. She added: “It has been retracted.

“It was completely wrong and not the kind of culture we should have in our party. When we do something wrong, we acknowledge it, we say sorry and we try and fix it.”

BY **STEPH SPYRO**
Deputy Political Editor

CAMPAIGNERS say ministers are treating Waspi women with “utter contempt” by refusing for a second time to compensate them over changes to the state pension age.

Work and Pensions Secretary Pat McFadden yesterday said the government would not pay those born in the 1950s up to £2,950 each.

The sum was suggested by Parliament’s watchdog because Whitehall botched telling the women they would have to work an extra six years.

Angela Madden, chair of Women Against State Pension Inequality, said: “Ministers have demonstrated their utter contempt for 1950s-born women, for Parliament and for the Parliamentary Ombudsman.

“The government has kicked the can down the road for months, only to arrive at exactly the same conclusion it has always wanted to.

“This is a disgraceful political choice by a small group of very powerful people who have decided the harm and injustice suffered by millions of ordinary women simply does not matter.”

Dennis Reed, director of over-60s crusaders Silver Voices, added: “This cruel decision amounts to a declaration of war on senior citizens and shows that Labour has given up all hope of regaining the trust and votes of pensioners.

“To deliberately raise the hopes of millions of older women while buying time to get their legal ducks in a row is beyond contempt.

“This is the latest in a line of betrayals of older people, and Waspi women are encouraged to join Silver Voices to mount a general political fight back.”

Fast-tracked

Waspi says up to 3.6 million women may have lost out after receiving only 18 months’ notice of an increase of up to six years in their state pension age from 60 to 65. The group claims men had six years’ notice.

In 2024 the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman found that the Waspi women were not adequately informed about the changes, which were fast-tracked and completed in 2018. It has suggested compensation ranging from £1,000 to £2,950 each.

In 2024 the government apologised for the poor communication but ruled out damages, saying the bill for taxpayers of up to £10.5billion could not be justified.

However last year a 2007 Department for Work and Pensions report came to light, questioning why it posted individual pension forecasts. It stopped that year.

In November, Mr McFadden said he would reconsider compensation. But yesterday he said: “The evidence shows that the vast majority of 1950s-born women already knew the state pension age was increasing thanks to a wide range of public information, including through leaflets, education campaigns, information in GP surgeries, on TV, radio, cinema and online. To specifically compensate only those women who suffered injustice would require a scheme that could reliably verify the individual circumstances of millions of women.”

Campaigners, including Angela Madden, on the left, have blasted the government's ruling

Mr McFadden announces the snub to Waspi women yesterday

The Tories took aim at Labour for supporting Waspi women while in opposition.

Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary Helen Whately said: “They campaigned on it, posed for the photos, signed the pledges and told Waspi women they stood shoulder to shoulder with them.

“Keir Starmer and his front-bench used Waspi women as a political prop to win votes and moral authority.

“Now [Labour is] in government, Waspi women have been betrayed, like so many others that Labour promised the world to.

“It is cynical politics.”

Mr McFadden also faced an attack from his own backbenchers.

Rebecca Long-Bailey, who chairs the All-Party Parliamentary Group on State Pension Inequality for Women, said: “It is frankly wrong the government has once again chosen to reject compensation.

“The advice to government was clear, and blatantly ignoring those recommendations not only undermines the authority of the Ombudsman, it sends a damaging message about how the state responds when it gets things wrong.

“Put simply, it will not right historical wrongs even when its own independent advisers tell it to.”

Unison general secretary Andrea Egan said the decision “slams the door on justice” for a generation of women who lost out “through no fault of their own”.

OPINION: PAGE 12

decision 'amounts of war on OAPs'

Almshouse residents 'face losing their homes'

BY **JONATHAN WALKER**

THOUSANDS of pensioners living in almshouses could lose their homes as charity landlords struggle with new council fees.

More than 37,000 people, most of them retirees on low incomes, live in the charity properties providing low-rent homes for life.

But the new selective licensing system, introduced to target poor conditions in privately let homes, means councils can now require landlords to pay hundreds of pounds for each property.

Almshouse charities could be liable as they are not in the official definition of "affordable housing" which applies to council homes.

Nick Phillips, chief of the Almshouse Association which represents 1,600 charities, said: "The impact will be that over time almshouse providers won't be able to afford to keep going."

Many almshouse charities are small, local organisations providing people such as armed forces veterans or retired miners with flats and bungalows allowing them to retain their independence for as long as possible.

A government spokesman said: "Councils can choose whether to discount or scrap selective licensing fees for almshouses.

"We also want to make it easier for almshouses to develop new affordable homes and we'll keep this under review."

TO READ ALL THE BEST POLITICAL STORIES OF THE DAY GO TO EXPRESS.CO.UK/POLITICS

Thwarted mayor Andy Burnham

Labour MPs told to visit seat before by-election

BY **JONATHAN WALKER**
Whitehall Editor

SIR Keir Starmer has ordered his Labour MPs to make campaigning visits to Gorton and Denton, in a bid to avoid humiliation in the by-election.

Reform's Matt Goodwin is the bookies' favourite to win the February 26 poll, after Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham was blocked from standing for Labour.

Zack Polanski, leader of the Green Party, which names its candidate today, said it is a two-horse race: "We alone will be taking the fight to Reform."

Sir Keir has appointed junior minister Andrew Western to oversee Labour's campaign.

Labour will name its candidate tomorrow, with four local councillors, including Bury Council leader Eamonn O'Brien, in the running.

Briefings

But the fallout from the decision to bar Mr Burnham continued, as the mayor insisted he was "probably in a better position than anybody" to stop Reform gaining the seat, in which Labour has a 13,413 majority.

Sir Keir was among the members of Labour's National Executive Committee to vote to block Mr Burnham.

They spoke on Monday in a bid to clear the air.

Speaking to BBC Radio Manchester, Mr Burnham said: "I did ask to speak to the Prime Minister, because I wanted to assure him of something I put in the letter that supported my application, and it was that I wasn't coming in to undermine him or the government." He also criticised anonymous briefings against him that appeared to have come from people attempting to help Sir Keir.

Conservatives said they would be fighting for every vote and denied it would be a two-horse race.

Pictures: CARL COURT/GETTY

BY **MARTYN BROWN**
Political Editor in Beijing

PM's 'warm' talks could see Xi make controversial return visit to Britain...

Deals on visa-free travel and cut to whisky tariffs

KEIR Starmer has risked provoking anger after opening the door for Chinese dictator Xi Jinping to visit Britain.

The Prime Minister is said to be open to the idea of welcoming the Communist leader after bonding with him on his trip to China.

But it is likely to prove controversial, not least because five MPs are currently banned from visiting the Far East nation.

Sir Keir and president Xi held "warm" talks in Beijing yesterday, heralding a closer relationship between China and the UK.

Their growing closeness and a shared love of football increased the likelihood of a return visit.

The Chinese leader last made the trip in 2015, enjoying a pint in a pub with the then-Tory PM David Cameron.

Asked if Sir Keir wanted Xi to come to Britain, his spokesman said: "The PM has been clear that a reset relationship with China, that it's no longer in an ice age, is beneficial to British people and British business.

"I'm not going to get ahead of future engagements, we'll set those out in the normal way."

Xi could make a full state visit but in that instance he would have to be invited by King Charles.

But any visit by the Chinese premier is likely to provoke anger.

Beijing has been accused of spying on Parliament and No10, and there are controversies around a new Chinese super-embassy in London and the case of jailed British tycoon Jimmy Lai.

Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch said: "Keir Starmer seems incapable of acting in Britain's national interest.

"We should not roll out the red carpet for a state that conducts daily espionage in our country, flouts international trading rules and aids Putin in his senseless war on Ukraine. We need a dialogue with China, we do not need to kowtow to them."

The five MPs targeted by China were Sir Iain Duncan Smith, Tom Tugendhat, Nusrat Ghani, Neil O'Brien and Tim Loughton. Two peers, David Alton and Helena Kennedy, were also sanctioned. All were banned from entering China, Hong Kong and Macau, any property they had in China was frozen and they were blocked from doing business with any Chinese citizen or institution.

Sir Keir has made a concerted effort to improve relations with China since he became Prime Minister 18 months ago. Following the latest landmark talks he had a tour of Beijing's historic Forbidden City.

Then it was down to business, securing a deal that will see China reduce whisky tariffs from 10% to 5% and worth £250m over five years for UK exporters. Visa-free travel to China for UK citizens was also agreed. Those visiting the country for less than 30 days will no longer need a visa.

It will apply to travel as tourists and for business, and brings the rules in line with those for 50 other countries including France and Germany. The start date for the change is to be confirmed. Sir Keir told Xi he wanted a "more sophisticated" relationship with China, while the president said relations had been through "twists and turns" in recent years.

The men met with their delegations for about an hour and 20 minutes, followed by a 20-minute four-way meeting with national security adviser Jonathan Powell and Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi and a lunch.

Sir Keir raised "areas of concern" during the talks. He said they had a "respectful discussion" about the case of Mr Lai and the treatment of the Uighur minority.

And on Ukraine, the PM's spokesman said: "Both leaders were clear about the shared aim to see the war brought to an end."

FOOTBALL DIPLOMACY

THE leaders have bonded over their love of football.

It is understood that President Xi not only told the PM of his support for Manchester United, but that he is keen on other teams too.

He admitted to Arsenal fan Sir Keir that he keeps an eye on rivals Manchester City and FA Cup holders Crystal Palace.

Earlier, the PM gave the president a football, *inset*, used in last weekend's clash between Arsenal and Man Utd. But Sir Keir said he was not too happy at the result, as the Gunners lost 2-3.

Away from football, the Chinese leader also expressed his love of Shakespeare.

Keir Starmer and Xi Jinping shake hands; top, the PM visits the Forbidden City

ANALYSIS

MARTYN BROWN
Political Editor in Beijing

AS he wandered around the Forbidden City in Beijing, Sir Keir Starmer could have afforded himself a wistful smile.

The historic imperial palace complex was the centre of political power in China for more than 500 years.

Its governments exuded power, stability and brought about rapid development and advancements.

More than half a millennia after its construction, Sir Keir found himself walking among the ornate buildings which once housed the Ming and Qing dynasties.

But this is a political leader in a very different position.

He has been dramatically weakened by repeated leadership threats and plagued by multiple embarrassing U-turns, while the economy he oversees is spluttering.

Sir Keir's big hope from this landmark trip to China was to boost trade between the two countries. While a reduction in whisky tariffs is welcome, it's no big bazooka. Neither is AstraZeneca's £10billion investment plans for China and a new deal on visa-free travel.

They are the equivalent of a dim sum – bite-size morsels that merely tickle the taste buds but leave you hungry for more.

The PM will hope his new bond with Xi Jinping will extend beyond their shared love of football.

And he will also have his fingers crossed that Donald Trump doesn't become angered, like a number of Tory MPs, by his cosiness with the Communist superpower.

Duo make a meal of visit with lavish banquet

KEIR Starmer was wined and dined by Xi Jinping as he tucked into a lavish banquet in Beijing.

The PM was offered pickled hors d'oeuvres followed by mushroom soup, roasted cod, steamed beef with yam, fried breaded shrimp, stewed vegetables in a pumpkin broth, sweet rice dumplings and steamed rice cake.

This was followed by a mango shaped fruit dessert with vanilla ice cream. Guests were also treated to Chinese wine – a 2009 red Cabernet Sauvignon from Hebei province and a white Changyu special reserve Chardonnay 2016, although Sir Keir sipped on water.

The ornate Golden Room, inside the Great Hall of the People, was decorated with huge paintings and swans made from flowers.

Rogue surgeon harmed 94 kids in botched ops

BY **JANE KIRBY**

MAVERICK Great Ormond Street orthopaedic surgeon Yaser Jabbar harmed 94 children, including by cutting bone in the wrong place, experts have concluded.

Many of his patients were left in pain, some needed further surgery and 36 youngsters suffered permanent or life-changing damage.

The latest report into Jabbar's treatment of 789 kids between 2017 and 2022 was carried out by independent paediatric or orthopaedic consultants from other UK hospitals.

The Met Police said: "We will review the report commissioned by Gosh and assess whether there is any requirement for police involvement."

Jabbar specialised in lower limb reconstruction and leg lengthening at the world-famous London hospital.

The review – commissioned by Gosh and published yesterday – said his surgery fell well below the level expected in several areas. Proper consent was not obtained in all cases, while he also had an "unjustified preference for certain surgical techniques including unconventional or unrecognised procedures".

Children's surgeon Jabbar favoured unorthodox procedures and left some of his patients at Gosh with permanent damage to their legs

The report said: "There were some serious problems found, including poor planning before surgery, not making the area stable enough, unclear or incomplete notes, and putting implants in the wrong place.

"Other issues were making cuts in the bone at the wrong level or using the wrong method, making decisions that didn't match what was seen in the scans during surgery, problems with how frames and pins were used, and not involving the wider team when dealing with infections."

The review continued: "There were instances where the procedure undertaken differed from what was originally consented to, with no proper record for the rationale for changes.

"Many families said they were not given clear explanations about treatment options, risks, or why certain decisions were made.

"They were often confused about the purpose of procedures, expected results and alternatives. Several families reported raising concerns directly with Mr Jabbar but they felt these were usually dismissed."

The experts, who carried out case reviews for all 789 patients, also found there was an over-reliance on junior staff and a lack of rationale for some procedures. Jabbar is believed to live abroad and is no longer licenced to practise medicine in the UK.

He stopped working at Gosh in October 2022, a month after bosses commissioned a Royal College of Surgeons review of his work and department following complaints.

He operated on 91 of the 94 children directly harmed by his care. The other three suffered for reasons including admin delays.

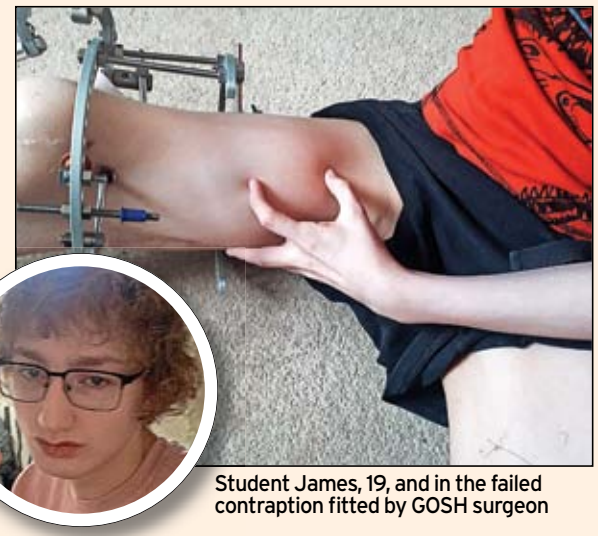
Yesterday Gosh chief executive Matthew Shaw said: "We are profoundly sorry to all the patients and their families who have been affected by the care provided by Mr Jabbar.

"The report we have published today sets out in full what happened, what we found in our review of patients, what we have learnt and what we have done as a consequence. We have made significant changes to both the orthopaedic service itself and across the hospital to minimise the chance of something like this happening again."

The first review by the RCS reported in October 2023. It said Gosh's orthopaedic department was seen by some staff as "toxic".

NHS England is reviewing Gosh's handling of the case.

James in doomed frame with pins that damaged an artery and left him in agony



Student James, 19, and in the failed contraption fitted by GOSH surgeon

'It was the worst pain I'd ever felt'

BY **JANE KIRBY**

A TEENAGER who suffered severe harm at the hands of Yaser Jabbar said it left him in "horrifying" pain.

James Wood, 19, was born with multiple pterygium syndrome that causes skin webbing across the joints and limited movement in his knees and ankles.

In September 2018, at the age of 12, he was referred to Jabbar and had an op in April 2019 where a frame was fixed to his leg to stretch knee tissues.

Just a few weeks later, James from Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, began to suffer extreme pain and swelling in his right thigh. Medics said the wrong pins were used for the frame and one protruded into James' thigh, damaging his femoral artery.

James, a student, said: "I would get these really intense fits of pain in my right thigh for about an hour. It was the worst pain I had ever felt.

"After the frame was removed, I then had to have a cast on my leg. When the cast was removed, the back of my foot was rotten. I had to return for a lot of appointments so they could keep cleaning it out. How can this ever have been allowed to happen?"

'It's appalling, our boy will be affected for life'

A 12-YEAR-OLD boy operated on by Yaser Jabbar five years ago still has nightmares, his family say.

Vivaan Sharma had leg lengthening surgery on his shortened right limb but Jabbar used a different frame to the usual one.

It left Vivaan in agony and needing several corrective operations, said his dad Viresh, from Hertfordshire.

BY **JANE KIRBY**

He added: "We feared immediately that something was wrong, as we noticed a hard bump on the side of his leg. His foot didn't seem to be at the right angle either.

"When we raised this with Mr Jabbar, he said it was 'part of the plan'... I believed him and dismissed Vivaan's screams as we were turning the screws on his frame as part of the treatment.

"I was later told by another consultant that he had nerves running across the break... Even today, after many operations, Vivaan walks with a limp.

"It's appalling. Our boy will be affected for life."

The family have hired Hudgell Solicitors to pursue a civil claim against Gosh.

Vivaan was left in agony

'Put London in grooming gang probe'

BY **AARON NEWBURY**

SADIQ Khan is facing calls for a London element to the national grooming gang inquiry following "failures" across the capital.

The claims were made by London Assembly Member Susan Hall. The Tory alleges in a report that Sir Sadiq rejected a £5million London-level inquiry and asked "six times what a grooming gang is" when quizzed.

Ms Hall also claims the Met Police "doesn't effectively understand the nature and scale" of child exploitation in the capital – and there have been "catastrophic" failures across its child-protection system spanning decades.

An investigation by the Express last year revealed the Mayor of London had read reports identifying at least 24 cases of organised group-based exploitation while publicly denying there were grooming gangs in the city.

Sir Sadiq's spokesman said yesterday: "The mayor wants justice for every single victim of these horrific crimes."

Man arrested in probe into museum raid

BY **CLAIRE HAYHURST**

A MAN has been arrested on suspicion of handling stolen goods following the theft of more than 600 artefacts from a museum.

The 41-year-old was later released under investigation over the burglary on September 25 at a building housing items from Bristol Museum.

Police have described artefacts taken – including medals, badges, silver items and bronze figurines – as having a "significant cultural value".

Natural history pieces, including geological specimens, are also believed to have been taken in the raid.

Police are continuing to appeal for the public's help to identify four men caught on camera in the overnight break-in.

Following the burglary, Bristol City Council released images of an elephant carved in ivory, an ivory statue of the Buddha and a ship lantern. They belonged to the British Empire and Commonwealth Collection.

Judge rejects legal bid to stop biological men using women's facilities at ponds

Bathing ponds in Hampstead Heath. Below, Maya Forstater

BY **GILES SHELDRICK** Chief Reporter

CAMPAIGNERS have reacted with fury after a legal challenge against men using women's showers and changing rooms at a world-famous lido was thrown out by a judge.

Sex Matters disputed a policy at Hampstead Heath swimming ponds which allows trans people to use facilities for the gender they identify as.

But the charity's sex discrimination case against the City of London Corporation, which operates the bathing ponds, was rejected.

Sex Matters chief executive Maya Forstater said: "The fight for women's safety, privacy and dignity in single-sex spaces will continue.

Risk

"Just because this particular claim was ruled out on procedural grounds does not give any service provider the green light to allow trans-identifying males into female facilities.

"The City's policy and its unwillingness to defend the lawfulness of that policy in court simply pushes the risk of harassment and the cost and difficulty of taking legal cases on to individual women and members of staff. This is deeply unjust."

Sex Matters wanted permission to seek a judicial review of a decision to allow men into the women's bathing pond, and vice versa, but was refused.

This decision was made on procedural grounds with Mrs Justice Lieven dismissing the challenge, saying: "The more appropriate person to bring this claim is an individual who says they have been discriminated against by decisions about access."

The hearing looked at whether to allow a challenge to keep the policy, introduced in 2017, not if the policy itself was lawful.

Sex Matters said it was now "considering all options".

A consultation found nearly 90% of more than 38,000 respondents backed trans-inclusive access. And the Good Law Project said the decision went against "transphobic" Sex Matters and in favour of "swimmers who fought to keep the ponds inclusive".

It comes after the Supreme Court ruled last year that a person's legal gender is the one they were biologically assigned at birth.

Tom Cross KC, for the charity, said rules at the ponds in North London treat an individual woman "less favourably" than an individual man, as they are at "greater risk of suffering the detriment of her privacy, dignity or safety being compromised".

The City of London Corporation said: "We have published the results of a consultation on future access.

"The findings will be presented to City Corporation committees, which will consider them alongside legal duties, equality impact assessments, safeguarding responsibilities and operational considerations."

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Gun-conversion workshop run from traveller caravan

BY **PAUL JEEVES** Crime Editor

A LORRY driver ran a workshop converting blank-firing guns into deadly pistols to sell to criminals, including the getaway driver in the shooting of police constable Sharon Beshenivsky.

Thomas McKenna, 60, worked in a caravan at a traveller site in South Ockenden, Essex.

He and partner Tina Smith, 55, admitted a string of firearms offences and are being sentenced at Kingston crown court alongside customers Allan Crosby, 44, of Sidcup, South East London, and Ryan Smith of Dunton Green, Kent.

Other clients including Faisal Razzaq, the driver in the 2005 shooting of Sharon Beshenivsky in Bradford, West Yorks, will be sentenced next month.

Thomas McKenna admitted offences

Pictures: DAVID JON/GETTY

Actress Liz in necklace at party in 1972, left

Burton wears it on his head

Margot looks stunning in Liz's jewels

Taylor-made for Margot

Star wears Liz necklace

BY **JAMIE DOWNHAM**

MARGOT Robbie hits the Heights of Hollywood sophistication, wearing a £6.4million necklace once gifted to Elizabeth Taylor by Richard Burton.

She showed off the heart-shape Taj Mahal diamond in a Cartier necklace, given to Liz by the Welsh actor on her 40th birthday in 1972 during their first marriage

Margot, 35, plays lead Catherine in a steamy adaptation of Emily Bronte's Wuthering Heights and borrowed the piece to wear at the LA premiere. It sold for $8.8m (£6.4m) in a sale of Taylor's jewels after her death in 2011.

£6m

Amount paid for Liz Taylor's necklace at sale of her jewellery in 2011

DAILY EXPRESS

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Unelected peers shamed by assisted dying tactics

MEMBERS of the House of Lords intent on wrecking legislation to allow assisted dying for the first time should heed the will of the people.

These ermine-clad pontificators have no democratic mandate to sabotage a bill that has already been backed by the House of Commons.

If they cannot support the legislation with a clear conscience they are under no compulsion to vote for it – but they should not engage in parliamentary dark arts so the deadline for putting it on the statute book is missed.

Many people consider it incongruous that unelected people – almost all of whom are the beneficiaries of political patronage – have such a key role in making laws.

Many hard-working barons and baronesses provide valuable scrutiny of legislation.

But in this case a combination of dithering and delaying tactics threaten to torpedo a historic change in the law that is supported by MPs and, crucially, the country.

As campaigner Sophie Blake tells us, while the stalling continues "terminally ill people are seeing their conditions progress or cancers spread".

Just like any member of the public, peers are free to express an opinion on assisted dying.

But it is an outrage if they subvert the democratic process and deny worried men and women the dignity of a choice about how they leave this life.

Sting in tale for Starmer

THE treatment of 3.6 million women born in the 1950s who were not properly informed about the hike in their pension age is shameful.

The so-called Waspi women are the victims of a scandal, with campaigners right to complain that they have been treated with "utter contempt".

Highly paid ministers seem incapable of appreciating the horrendous shock many of the women suffered.

In many cases, people with profound caring responsibilities were plunged into a crisis.

Labour's disrespect for pensioners has been clear ever since Chancellor Rachel Reeves decided to strip millions of them of their winter fuel allowance just days after arriving at the Treasury.

Now, in another political decision, the government has spurned the parliamentary ombudsman's recommendations of compensation for those affected.

Labour has chosen not to make amends – a callous decision that will not be forgotten.

The Waspi warriors are not about to back down and Sir Keir Starmer should be worried.

She's never Feltz better

CONGRATULATIONS Vanessa Feltz on a quarter of a century of wonderful writing for the Daily Express.

You bring us hilarity, insight, wisdom and – above all – your unique warmth, which has won you a place in the hearts of multitudes of loyal readers.

There is no subject on which you do not have an enlightening opinion as a legend of journalism – and your columns are sharper than ever.

The best is yet to come.

Sticking-plaster rate reforms are taxing firms out of existence

Rachel Reeves has offered a partial lifeline to pubs but ignored other businesses

Ros Morgan
Guest columnist

BRITAIN'S pubs may have been thrown a last-minute tax lifeline, but the government's bailout is little more than a sticking plaster on a system that is fundamentally broken. The U-turn on planned business rate hikes for pubs is welcome. Many are under pressure from every direction – rising wages, soaring energy bills and higher National Insurance costs – and any relief is better than none.

But this fix is temporary, partial and deeply unfair. It helps one sector while leaving countless others exposed. And it avoids the real issue: Britain's business rates system no longer reflects its modern economy.

Before the last election, Labour promised to level the playing field between bricks-and-mortar businesses, which bear the brunt of the existing business rates system, and online firms, which get away with paying little or nothing.

But instead of embracing real reform, the Chancellor tweaked the existing system. As a result, and as part of a revaluation of property values, many high street firms are now discovering rates bills are about to explode.

Retail, hospitality, leisure and culture face rises of 15 to 30% a year for several years running.

In London alone, this is expected to add £2billion a year to costs. In the capital, where the Heart of London Business Alliance represents more than 500 firms, members report eye-watering increases – in some cases more than 200%.

In many cases, they will be paying more in rates than rent.

INDUSTRY estimates suggest the average pub faces a 76% rise over three years, while the average hotel is looking at a 115% increase.

Theatres, pharmacies, galleries, gyms, visitor attractions, shops and offices across the country are bracing for similar shocks. There is only so much they can take, and if they disappear, we don't just lose jobs, we lose tax revenue, tourism, investment and the character that makes towns and cities worth visiting.

The government's response has been to keep trying to patch up the old system. It already spends more than £4.3bn a year on business rates relief.

Now it will spend hundreds of millions more to soften the blow for pubs. This cycle of crisis, protest and emergency relief is expensive, inefficient and entirely avoidable.

We must confront the fact that business rates are based on an economic model from another era. When the tax was introduced in 1990, basing it on property made sense. Today, it does not. More than 20% of the UK economy is digital, and that share is growing.

Digital businesses are typically property-light, but benefit from the same infrastructure, workforce and public services as high street firms – while paying a fraction of the tax. The result is a shrinking tax base being squeezed ever harder.

The government raised £34bn from business rates last year.

This year it plans to raise over £37bn. By 2030, it is forecast to hit £45bn. All of this is being extracted from a declining number of physical premises.

This is why HOLBA is calling for real rates reform – not another temporary fix. Our proposed Hybrid Business Rate offers a practical, deliverable solution that modernises the system without ripping it up.

The idea is simple. Keep a property-based business rate, but slash it significantly. At the same time, broaden the tax base by introducing a modest levy – around 2% – on online sales, collected through the existing VAT system. Applied across the digital economy, with sensible exemptions to protect the high street, this levy could raise around £6bn a year. That would be enough to cut traditional business rates by roughly 37% – taking them back to a level firms could actually afford.

'In many cases businesses will be paying more in rates than rent'

CRUCIALLY, this would bring the UK into line with many European countries that already tax economic activity, not just physical footprint. It would ensure all businesses, whether in a shop or on the internet, make a fair contribution.

The proposed pubs bailout shows ministers know something is badly wrong.

But if they stop there, the next crisis is already baked in.

Another sector will revolt. Another relief will be rushed through. Another crucial sector will miss out and foot the bill.

Politicians talk endlessly about growth, but we risk taxing growth out of existence.

If the government is serious about vibrant high streets, world-class cultural centres and sustainable jobs, it must move beyond tinkering. The next Budget is the moment for courage. Let's see real rates reform, not another sticking plaster.

● *Ros Morgan is chief executive of Heart of London*

Lesley-Ann Jones

Liza's life's always been a cabaret

LIZA with a Zee is about to publish the untold story of her life. Wait, what?

From Miss Minnelli's four doomed marriages, her many torrid affairs – including those with Martin Scorsese and Mikhail Baryshnikov – her drink and drug addictions, her spells in rehab, her hip replacements, her crushed spine, her vocal cord polyps, her encephalitis and her wired knees to her everlasting grief over the tragic death of her mother Judy Garland, her entire 79-year-long life has been an open book. Hasn't it? Is there something we should know?

THAI wildlife authorities and a veterinary team administered contraceptive shots by dart without anaesthesia to three female elephants in Trat province this week, in an attempt to quell the beasts' birthrate.

It is rising by 8% a year in five eastern provinces, compared with 3% in other regions.

In other words, from 334 elephants in 2015 to about 800 last year. Over the past 14 years, human-elephant conflict has caused 200 human fatalities and over 100 elephant deaths.

The Asian elephant is Thailand's national animal. It is also classified by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature as endangered globally. Just me?

EASYJET has been taken to task by the Advertising Standards Authority for claiming a large cabin bag allowance was available for just £5.99. The watchdogs ruled this misleading. The advertisement was banned.

The last time I flew "Queasy" – also known in our house as "Sleazy" – I rocked up at the airport with my usual dimensions-compliant wheelie case and was nabbed at the gate, whereupon I was forced to part with another 48 quid. Which was more than I paid for the flight. I take that same little case and my custom elsewhere, these days.

Gen Z didn't start it... but they get the blame

I REMEMBER when the BRIT School in Croydon, South London, was considered a whim backed by well-intentioned industry professionals with scant hope of finding and nurturing a star.

"Give it time," they said. Along came Adele, Amy Winehouse, Jessie J, Raye and Lola Young, performance poet Kae Tempest and acting luminaries such as Cush Jumbo and Tom Holland. Baby, look at them now.

The globally respected performing arts establishment keeps them coming.

Its latest success story is Olivia Dean, currently at No2 in the Billboard singles chart. The neo-soul songstress will go head-to-head with her stablemate Lola Young in the Best New Artist category on Sunday in Los Angeles, at the 68th Annual Grammy Awards.

The BRIT School was "The best thing I ever did," breezes lovable 26-year-old Dean. May the best woman win? They already have.

THE IDEA that the older generation is too quick to blame Gen Z for the current state of the world is a prominent theme in contemporary intergenerational discourse. Unsettled by social, economic and technological change, many older adults regard the cohort born between 1997 and 2012, now in their mid-teens to late-20s, as entitled and lazy.

It is a fundamental aspect of human nature that each generation criticises the previous one, often using them as a scapegoat. But to heap blame on those who come after them, and who didn't start the fire, is cheap.

As the mother of a Millennial and two Gen Zs, I would say that. Hear me out.

This week, I was subjected to an 84-year-old friend's growl that "it's all the younger generation's fault for spending too much time on their phones. This current epidemic of compassion fatigue is down to them."

Do most Boomers and Silent Generation people really think this? And what is Gen Z's take? I ran it past my 26-year-old youngest, a performing artist and education professional who is currently teaching English in Vietnam.

"It's definitely felt," said Bridie. "There's a pervasive sense that, if you aren't speaking out all the time about everything that's going on in the world, you don't care – which I do, very much. But if you're not seen to be angry, you aren't paying attention.

"The 'Your silence is deafening' theme creates pressure – to post, to comment, to show that you're engaged and involved." But it's not just Zoomers who are burned out and exhausted by it. We all are – because the human brain has not evolved to keep pace with technology. We don't have the mental capacity to process today's interminable parade of horror.

Of course we should all engage. We should also seek balance and opt out sometimes. When you're losing sleep over another genocide, a biblical flood, a derailed train, the bus-load of people swallowed by a swollen river, the latest American civilian to have been shot dead, and find yourself uncomforted by the token sweetener – pictures of some woman's cute cat – take a break.

WHAT HUGE, hideous things are my children most bothered by right now? Iran and ICE. What can they do about them? Nothing.

"But it becomes a moral signifier," says my youngest. "It's what we're saying, what we're doing, demonstrating that we're not ignoring. We are expected to comment constantly, otherwise we are deemed not to care. It all adds another layer of fatigue."

What is fabricated and inflated? What is true? Gen Zs have their opinions. Do the rest of us?

And if we're looking for someone to blame, toss a glance at the trillionaire tech giants. Younger generations are ridiculed and criticised for spending too much time on devices that are designed for them to become addicted to. They are blamed unfairly for what they did not start.

FUNERALS AND FAMILY PERFORMANCES WILL ONLY EVER END IN TEARS

GABBY LOGAN is the quintessential presenter and a consummate professional. She is kind, funny and modest. I had the pleasure of working with her once, on a chat show. A good laugh was had.

Despite her pedigree – the daughter of Leeds United, Spurs and Wales footballer, later manager Terry Yorath, and wife of Scottish rugby union star Kenny Logan – the BBC's Match of the Day host is low key, and has never been one to flaunt herself.

Our fathers knew each other. Both proud Welshmen, they were not dissimilar in character. I felt desperately sorry for Gabby when her beloved dad died suddenly after a brief illness at the age of only 75.

Terry's funeral – held in Leeds on Monday – was primarily a family affair. Prayers were led by grandchildren. Gabby and Kenny's rugby-playing son Reuben, 20, read a poem. His twin sister, Lois, a showjumper, sang Jerusalem.

Alas, I have attended many funerals. Those that linger longest in the memory tend to do so for the wrong reasons... especially when family members performed. A matter of personal choice, I know. Far be it from me to criticise anyone brave enough to do it, especially if they are young, afraid and close to tears.

Performing for a crowd is nerve-wracking at the best of times. Funerals are awash with emotion that can prove too much for young hearts. After-effects haunt and can have repercussions years hence. Weep your eyes out in private but go for dignity and decorum in public, is my take. Two of my kids are singers, but please: no one let them near a mic in church the day I check out.

● **Leo McKinstry is away**

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William Hickey

Bringing the gossip since 1933

AFTER former chancellor Nadhim Zahawi was seen celebrating Manchester United's 3-2 triumph over Premier League leaders Arsenal, I was reminded of the politician's regrettable association with the North-West club's bitterest rivals.

Zahawi, who recently defected from the Tories to Reform UK, was an unlikely hooligan in his youth after teaming up with a Liverpool supporter. Privately educated in London, he once confessed: "I was part of Liverpool's firm and would go out looking for fights as a football hooligan. In one fight with Southampton fans, I remember a giant police horse smashed me into a shop front on Seven Sisters Road in London."

Nadhim's spokeswoman is at pains to stress he's long been fully behind United, however. "He did go around with his friend, who was a Liverpool fan, and get involved in the football fights that took place, but was never a supporter of the team itself," she tells me.

IRKED by the sight of Oscar winners Sir Gary Oldman and Sir Daniel Day-Lewis being presented with personalised football shirts when visiting Millwall FC, the South East London club's long-time celebrity fan Danny Baker raged: "Where's my ***** one, Millwall? Been a season ticket holder for six decades!"**

ANNOUNCING her departure from the corporation this week, weather presenter Carol Kirkwood was originally tasked with waking up frisky BBC Breakfast host Frank Bough over 40 years ago.

A secretary on the programme at the time, young Carol would give the star his "early-morning alarm phone call at 3am".

Frank's career was eventually overshadowed by scandal when it emerged he had a penchant for drug-fuelled parties with prostitutes, while clad in female lingerie.

MEMORABLY accused of stabbing Boris Johnson in the back, veteran plotter Michael Gove concludes of the current political drama. "If I were Keir Starmer I'd definitely block Andy Burnham."

Adapting a quote from Shakespeare's tragedy Julius Caesar, Gove mischievously adds: "Yond Andy has a lean and hungry look, he thinks too much: such men are dangerous."

WHILE her 20-year marriage to the late Peter O'Toole proved fraught, Dame Siân Phillips reveals Welsh mother Sally got on famously with the legendary thespian.

Recalling Sally, a retired teacher, cheerfully performing PA duties on Peter's behalf, the actress chuckles: "I remember hearing her on the phone, 'No, Sir Laurence, [Olivier] no, I can't do that...no, Sir Laurence, I'm afraid I have strict orders not to interrupt Mr O'Toole!'"

Prue predicts Nigella will rise to the occasion

DAYS after announcing her departure from The Great British Bake Off, Dame Prue Leith gives replacement Nigella Lawson the thumbs up.

"She's a great baker...she's also really nice, mighty glam and seriously bright, sexy and sassy," enthuses Prue.

Chosen as Dame Mary Berry's successor in 2017, she adds of Nigella: "I'm just glad she wasn't in the running nine years ago."

By **Robert Meakin**

BY **DAN WARBURTON**

‘My baby’s life was stolen for no reason’

Boy, 15, pleads guilty to knife murder of 12-year-old

Leo, inset left, and on CCTV walking home from school. The killer on his bike after the murder, above, and talking to police, right

THE heartbroken family of a 12-year-old boy “hunted” and murdered by a teenager have spoken of their devastation that his life was taken in a senseless attack.

Leo Ross was walking home from school when he was ambushed by a 14-year-old he did not know, who knifed him in the stomach. The attack was brutal violence purely for violence’s sake, detectives said.

The killer had previously beaten three elderly women, had approached another potential victim that day and had been circling the area seeking his next target, police and lawyers said.

The twisted teen even played the hero by pretending to be a helpful bystander who had stumbled across Leo as he lay fatally injured.

Yesterday, after the boy, now 15, admitted murder, Leo’s mum Rachel Fisher said: “My son Leo was the sweetest, most kind-hearted boy. He didn’t have a bad bone in his body. My baby’s life was stolen for no reason whatsoever. My life will never be the same again without him. He will be loved and missed forever.”

Senseless

Leo was in foster care. His foster family, the Westons, said: “Leo was the sweetest, kindest boy who put others before himself.

“He was loved by all that knew him. He was wise beyond his years, full of knowledge and facts, full of life. A life cut short by a senseless act.

“We hope justice is served and we can get some closure, whatever the outcome, it still does not give Leo his life back, the life he truly deserved to live to its fullest.”

Leading up to the murder the attacker had carried out a string of chilling assaults on several women and that January day was “hunting” someone to target, police said.

He was captured in chilling footage cycling around as Leo made his way back to his foster family’s from Christ Church, Church of England Secondary Academy in Yardley Wood, Birmingham.

After stabbing him, the teenager threw the knife in a nearby river before telling one of Leo’s friends “your mate has just been stabbed” and riding back towards the scene.

He was caught on camera telling officers: “I seen him and I seen this woman – she was walking down so I told her to call you guys.”

Lying about Leo, he said: “He was laid there like that when I got here.”

Leo died after being taken to hospital from a riverside path in Trittiford Mill Park, about a 15-minute walk from the school. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said the teenager left the scene but was arrested that day and clothing stained with Leo’s blood was found at his home.

The attacker, who cannot be named for legal reasons, yesterday pleaded guilty to murder at Birmingham crown court.

He also admitted two counts of causing grievous bodily harm with intent and assault occasioning actual bodily harm in relation to previous attacks on three elderly victims.

The killer also admitted having a bladed article on the day he killed Leo. He denied assault occasioning actual bodily harm and assault by beating in relation to two other people and those charges will lie on file.

Detectives believe Leo’s killer loitered at the scene of the attack because he liked to watch the “chaos of his actions unfold”.

Det Insp Joe Davenport, of West Midlands Police, said: “The day Leo was murdered, we now know the boy involved had previously tried to assault another lone female who was walking in the park.

“He was interrupted during that attack and fled. However he continued to ride his bike around the park and the pattern of behaviour that emerged, looking back at other offences, it would appear that he was hunting for another victim – and I use that word deliberately because that’s the behaviour that was demonstrated. After he tried to assault the first female, he then comes across Leo Ross.”

Judge Paul Farrer KC remanded the teenager in youth detention until he is sentenced next month.

He told the murderer: “I can’t sentence you today for a number of reasons. You will be sentenced on the 10th of February.”

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Experts claim Donald Trump may have dementia...but his cabinet are seemingly unwilling to take action

IS TRUMP

Bruised hands, nodding off in meetings and frequently losing his train of thought ...fears are growing over the 47th US President's declining mental faculties

HIS HANDS are bruised black and blue, his ankles swollen and he falls asleep in cabinet meetings. Medical experts suspect he has secretly suffered a stroke. But it is President Donald Trump's mental decline that has the world worried, as he sits with his finger on America's nuclear trigger and threatens to grab Greenland, Venezuela, Cuba, Colombia and even Canada – all while confronting Nato.

"Take a good look at Donald Trump today, because that's the best Donald Trump you're ever going to see," says leading psychotherapist Dr John Gartner.

"All signs point to him having dementia, which will only get worse, and the rate of acceleration of decline will increase.

"We're spinning toward the Apocalypse because he has no sense of judgment, and no concern for the effects of his actions on the world. And he has malignant narcissism: the same personality disorder as Hitler. But the only thing more dangerous than an American Hitler is a demented American Hitler."

Trump was elected in November 2024 after campaigning against the 81-year-old president he dubbed "Sleepy Joe" Biden, who displayed his own troubling signs of aging – walking with a slow shuffle, occasionally stumbling, struggling to find the right words and losing his train of thought.

Yet Trump, who turns 80 in June, seems to have rapidly declined in his own mental and physical health, and his own train of

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LOSING HIS MIND?

EXCLUSIVE
By **Peter Sheridan**

thought often spectacularly derails. "Trump is now a hundred times worse than Biden ever was," says Dr Gartner.

"He is disinhibited, unchained and unhinged. Biden was basically benign, and wasn't a danger in the way Trump is, because Trump's dementia will keep escalating."

Fresh fears about the president's health emerged this week from an unlikely alley.

Slovakian prime minister Robert Fico, who met Trump at his Mar-a-Lago estate in January, is said to have privately alerted European leaders to Trump's "psychological state" being "dangerous", stating that he is "out of his mind" – something the White House vehemently denied as "absolutely totally fake news".

Yet words tellingly failed the president last week when asked about the Alzheimer's disease that plagued the final years of his father, property developer Frederick Trump, who died aged 93.

"At a certain age, about 86, 87, he started getting, what do they call it…?" said Trump, suddenly lost for words.

As he looked around for help, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt prompted him: "Alzheimer's."

"Well, I don't have it," said Trump, not entirely convincingly. "I don't think about it at all. You know why? Because whatever it is, my attitude is: whatever."

But medical experts are increasingly worried about his cognitive and physical deterioration. For months he has been using makeup to cover bruising on his right hand, which he claimed came from "shaking hands all day every day," and taking blood-thinning aspirin daily – Trump says he takes medication to control his cholesterol level, and for a skin condition.

At Davos in Switzerland last week he descended the stairs from Air Force One with tentative caution, walking with a gait reminiscent of an aged Biden. His swollen ankles bulged over his shoes, the result of chronic venous insufficiency.

Trump's hand was coated in concealer as he escorted singer Nicki Minaj this week

THE OLDEST man ever to assume the US presidency, Trump disclosed that he takes 325mg of aspirin daily to thin his blood – four times the recommended dose. But it is also the exact dosage recommended for stroke sufferers to prevent a recurrence.

Physician and clinical professor Dr Bruce Davidson says: "When I read that, I said, 'Well, he's had a stroke, and he's taking the right medication. I saw him cradling his right hand in his left, which is a common, involuntary thing that people with strokes have done when they have weakness."

Trump's hearing also appears to have deteriorated, and he increasingly asks people to repeat what they have said.

"We have reports from about a dozen people who worked in the first Trump administration who say he's not the same man he was four years ago," continues Dr Gartner, who taught psychiatry at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland.

"In the 1980s he was highly articulate, speaking in polished sentences. Now he has trouble completing a sentence, thought or word.

"That gross deterioration is a sign of cognitive decline.

"His mind wanders off topic, and he wanders physically. We've seen him miss his car and plane or wander to stare out the window while meeting with executives.

"He's showing signs of frontotemporal dementia – the bigger issue is the disinhibition of behaviour. Frontotemporal dementia makes people incapable of inhibiting their behaviour, so they'll be more paranoid, erratic, confused, impulsive and aggressive."

In the past year, Trump has bombed Syria, Iraq, Iran, Nigeria, Yemen, Somalia and numerous alleged drug boats in the Caribbean, kidnapped the president of Venezuela and threatened to invade Greenland, Cuba, Colombia and Canada – all while demanding the Nobel Peace Prize.

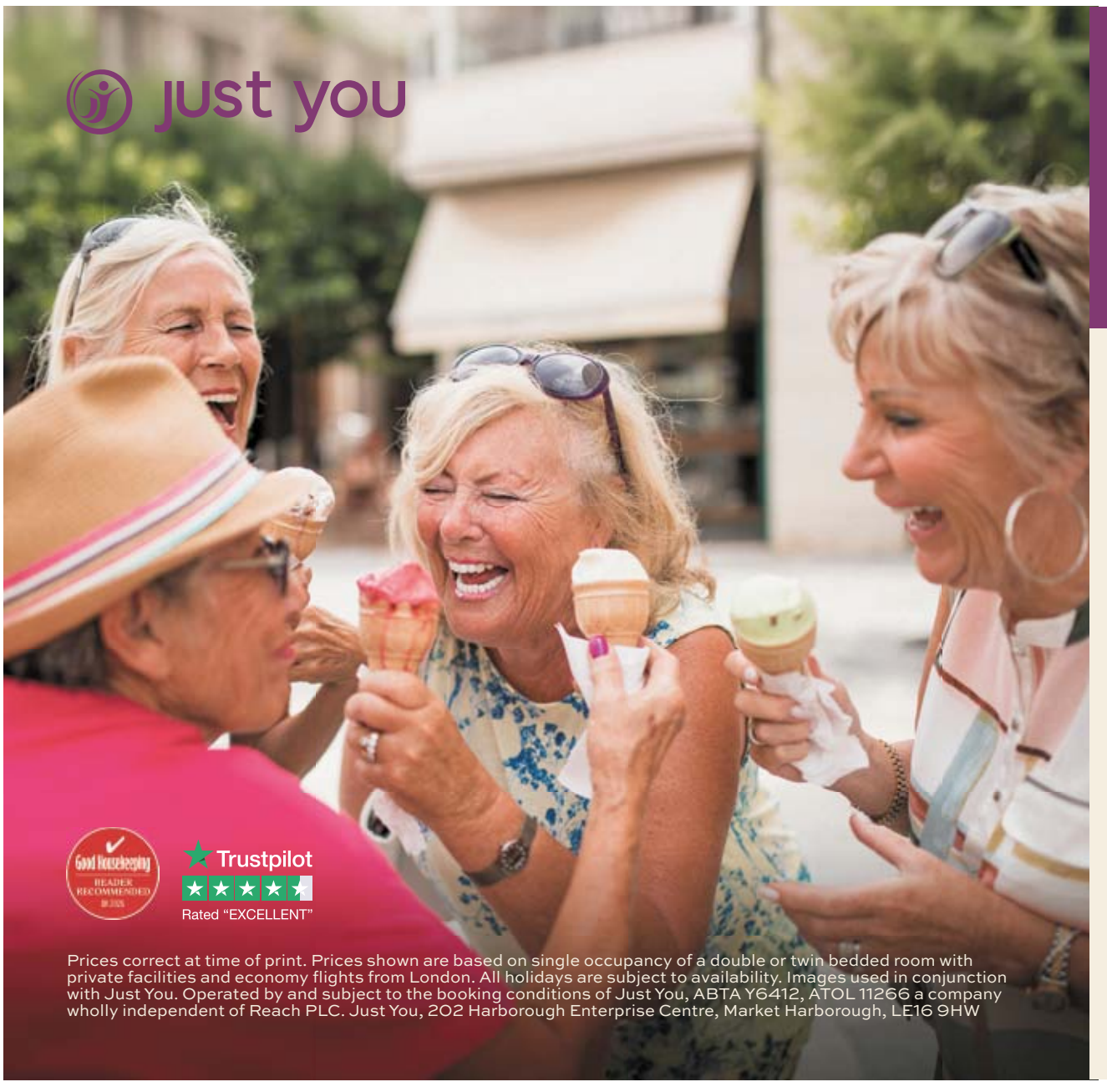
HE APPEARS obsessed with self-aggrandisement, building a massive Trump Ballroom at the White House and putting his name on New York's Kennedy Centre.

He has complete power over his "cowed cabinet" says Dr Gartner. "What's really so frightening is that he's becoming more impaired, while garnering more power. He should be removed from office."

White House spokesperson Liz Huston insists: "President Trump is the sharpest, most accessible, and energetic president in modern American history."

The 25th Amendment to the US Constitution allows for a president to be removed from office if deemed unfit by the vice president and a majority of the cabinet, and several leading Democrats have called for the amendment to be invoked.

Trump, with trademark braggadocio, dismisses such concerns, insisting: "My health is perfect." The world waits to see.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Putin 'agrees to ceasefire in Ukraine'

BY **ALLISTER HAGGER**

VLADIMIR Putin has agreed a partial ceasefire in Ukraine, Donald Trump has claimed.

The US president said he made a personal request to the Russian tyrant to cease strikes for a week during which temperatures are tipped to plunge as low as -24C.

It comes after Russian strikes on energy facilities have left many without heating.

Mr Trump told a White House cabinet meeting: "I personally asked President Putin not to fire on Kyiv and the cities and towns for a week during this... extraordinary cold."

He said Putin had "agreed to that".

However, there was no confirmation from Russia to support his claim.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov refused to comment yesterday when asked if a mutual halt on strikes on energy facilities was being discussed with Ukraine.

Kyiv is set to enter a brutally cold stretch starting today which is expected to last into next week.

Baby harmed in hit and run e-bike crash

BY **BEN MITCHELL**

A BABY has been born in a serious condition after a pregnant woman was hit by an e-bike which failed to stop.

Police said the mother, in her 30s, was treated in hospital for her injuries, which were not serious after Monday afternoon's crash in Poole, Dorset.

But her child remains seriously ill.

PC Dan Blagden, of the force's roads policing team, said: "We are carrying out a full investigation into the circumstances of this collision.

"I would urge any witnesses who have not already spoken to police to please contact us.

"I would also like to hear from anyone who may have captured relevant dashcam footage or witnessed the manner of the riding of the e-bike prior to the collision.

"We understand there was a pillion passenger on the e-bike.

"We would ask this person and the rider to come forward and speak to police."

Star Bruce Springsteen has reacted to the US raids with a protest song

Bruce releases anti-ICE track

BY **FRANCES MILLAR**

BRUCE Springsteen has released protest song Streets of Minneapolis, condemning Donald Trump's deadly immigration raids on the city.

The Boss wrote and recorded it over the weekend after ICE agents shot and killed a second protester.

The lyrics describe "a city aflame fought fire and ice 'neath an occupier's boots," which Springsteen calls "King Trump's private army".

Bloody

The megastar, 76, said: "It's dedicated to the people of Minneapolis, our innocent immigrant neighbours and in memory of Alex Pretti and Renee Good," naming the two victims.

White House spokeswoman Abigail Jackson said the Trump administration is focused on removing dangerous criminal illegal aliens, "not random songs with irrelevant opinions and inaccurate information". On Streets of Minneapolis, Springsteen sings: "Oh our Minneapolis, I hear your voice/Singing through the bloody mist/We'll take our stand for this land/And the stranger in our midst." The track ends with chants of "ICE Out!"

The rock legend has long been critical of Trump, last year saying the US "is currently in the hands of a corrupt, incompetent and treasonous administration". Mr Trump, 79, has called Springsteen overrated and a "dried out prune".

Nurse Mr Pretti, 37, was shot dead by federal agents on Saturday. Ms Good, 37, was killed in her car by an ICE bullet on January 7.

Border tsar Tom Homan, who is leading the raids in Minneapolis, yesterday urged prison chiefs to alert ICE to immigrant prisoners who can safely be deported before release. He added: "I'm staying until the problem's gone."

DJ is 'unable to walk' after cancer diagnosis

Andy Kershaw upbeat despite multiple tumours on spine

Andy Kershaw is still working on podcast

FORMER BBC Radio 1 DJ Andy Kershaw is "unable to walk" after being diagnosed with cancer that damaged his spine.

The broadcaster, 66, said doctors found multiple tumours in his back bones in August.

On his music podcast, Andy said: "I am in good spirits, feeling very positive and planning another podcast.

"I am determined not to die before Benjamin Netanyahu, Vladimir Putin, Donald Trump and Ant and Dec. That should keep me going for a while."

Pal Peter Everett wrote: "My friend Andy has been going through a difficult time.

"Last August he was diagnosed with cancer, mainly affecting his spine and making him unable to walk. Since then he has been undergoing treatment, including chemotherapy, radiotherapy, physiotherapy and a lot of scans and painkillers.

BY **JENNIE BUZAGLO**

"Although we've not been able to put together any podcasts in the last six months, we are very grateful to all the patrons and supporters who have stuck with us."

Andy began his career at Radio Aire in Leeds, joining as promotions manager. This role led him to form a partnership with veteran broadcaster Martin Kelner.

At Radio Aire, he helped launch Carol Vorderman's broadcasting career. His big break came in 1984, when he was asked to present BBC TV's flagship rock programme, The Old Grey Whistle Test. In 1985, he co-presented the BBC's coverage of Live Aid and joined BBC Radio 1. His sister is fellow broadcaster Liz Kershaw.

He started The Andy Kershaw Podcast, a fortnightly independent music show, in 2021.

Andy told the Burnley Express how his online venture started: "I lost all my work overnight with lockdown in 2020. People had been nagging me for years to do a podcast and it was always something I'd get round to, so lockdown gave me the opportunity.

"I didn't want to find myself on the treadmill I'd been on for 25 years on radio, having to come up with a programme every week – here there's no pressure or deadlines."

BROADCASTING LEGEND MARKS 25TH

Warm, funny, candid... and better than ever as she turns 25!

As Vanessa Feltz marks a quarter of a century, and more than 1,000 columns, since joining the Daily Express, she reflects on her extraordinary career with JJ ANISIOBI and reveals what's she learned about herself and others

Vanessa Feltz

Heather is the real catch in this perfect partnership

Vanessa's very first Daily Express column published 25 years ago today

Mandy achieves true Irish union

On sale at all good newsagents

TO SURVIVE in the media industry for more than a few years is an achievement. To remain relevant, read and trusted is rarer still. But to do it at the same newspaper, week-in, week-out, for a quarter of a century? That is almost unheard of.

Yet Vanessa Feltz has done exactly that.

Today marks 25 years since Vanessa first appeared as a columnist in the pages of the Daily Express. In that time, she has written more than 1,000 columns, charting love, loss, motherhood, heartbreak, politics, public life and private pain – all with a voice that is unmistakably hers. Warm, candid, funny, sometimes furious, often vulnerable, but always human. Unique.

As both her colleague and her friend, it was my privilege to sit down with Vanessa to talk about those 25 years, the ups and the downs, the mistakes she's made along the way, the changing face of journalism, and what it has meant to be a woman with a voice – and an opinion – in an industry that hasn't always welcomed either.

I began with the most obvious question of all. "When you started, did you ever imagine you'd still be here 25 years later?"

She laughs instantly, a big, knowing laugh, before answering.

"No. No. Who knew it could have lasted this long?" she says. "I mean, I'd been a newspaper columnist before, and I was poached by the then proprietor, Richard Desmond. It was a controversial appointment but I was wooed and beguiled by his charm and his chequebook. And what he hadn't realised was that I was just about to go into the very first ever Celebrity Big Brother."

That anecdote tells you a great deal about Vanessa Feltz. Opportunity, controversy, hard work, a complete refusal to stand still – and great timing!

One of the things I've always admired about Vanessa is that she is, without question, the hardest worker in the room. For many, having their face and name splashed across a national newspaper every week would be reason enough to rest on their laurels. Not Vanessa. She's always wanted more, and crucially, she has always been willing to do more.

In the early weeks of her Daily Express column, she was simultaneously hosting a BBC London radio show, preparing to enter the very first Celebrity Big Brother house, and still popping up on our TV screens.

Most people will remember her from her hugely successful eponymous chat show in the 1990s, her time on The Big Breakfast, and her near-constant presence across broadcast media. She didn't just become a household name – she embedded herself there.

But the newspaper column always mattered. Even when she entered the Big Brother house, a cultural leap into the unknown at the time, she insisted on protecting it.

"Part of my contract," she told me, "was that I had to be allowed to write my column for the Express. Nobody knew how many people would watch this show – it was the first of its kind. It turned out to be somewhere between 15 and 20 million people! And the bit where I was writing my column inside the house was basically an advert for the Express. It was absolutely amazing."

She smiles at the memory. "They made me write it on an ancient, decrepit manual typewriter, sitting in a room with all the other housemates."

'They made me write my column on an ancient typewriter, sitting with all the other housemates'

It is pure Vanessa: turning chaos into copy.

Our interview took place in Canary Wharf, central London, in the podcast studio used by our The Daily Expresso show.

Usually, it's Vanessa, 63, who currently appears five days a week on Channel 5 as well as hosting Saturday and Sunday radio shows on LBC, doing the interviewing – asking the questions, drawing out emotion, leading the conversation. I won't pretend it didn't feel slightly surreal to be the one on the other side of the table.

I also became an Express columnist only a few months ago, so naturally I wanted to know how on earth she has managed to connect with readers so successfully, for so long.

"It's a question of why you want to write it," she tells me. "What are you trying to do? Some columnists are deliberately malicious. They have a malevolent view of the world. They write something nasty and targeted at a particular individual."

She pauses, carefully.

"And then you have to ask yourself, 'Why are you writing that?' To fill a column with unpleasant observations about people you don't know – or even people you do know – what's the point of that? That's never been my ambition."

That philosophy explains a great deal about her longevity. Vanessa doesn't write *at* readers; she writes *with* them. Over 25 years, she has taken them into her confidence.

SHE HAS documented her highs and her lows. The births of her grandchildren. The breakdown of relationships. Moments of joy, grief, regret and resilience. Readers have laughed and cried alongside her – and they feel they know her.

That connection is very real.

"I think that's why people come up to me," she smiles. "They've seen me on telly, doing shows with members of the public, quite close to them. They always think they can just come in and squash me under their armpits."

She says it affectionately and with pride. Vanessa may glow in the limelight now, but it was never the life she planned. In fact, it wasn't even the life she imagined for herself.

"I went to Cambridge," she says, almost

Vanessa Feltz said as a young woman, the pinnacle of achievement in her Jewish community was to marry

Pictures: ADAM GERRARD

Daily Expresso host JJ Anisiobi turns the tables on Vanessa by asking the questions; below, in Big Brother's infamous diary room

sheepishly. "I thought I was bright, academic. But the heat was on in the community I grew up in – the Jewish community – and the pinnacle of achievement was getting married. My parents thought Cambridge would make me more marriageable, more eligible. They didn't really care what I did."

So how did journalism happen?

"Only because my father said that if I couldn't make a living immediately, I'd have to do law, which I didn't want to do. I got married, which is what I was trained to do, bred to do. It sounds ridiculous now."

That honesty, sometimes raw, sometimes uncomfortable, is what readers always recognised on the page. What advice would she give her younger self, I wonder?

"I would have fought," she says. "Fought hard against the pressure to get married so young. I would have tried to establish a feeling of being sufficient on my own. I would have made myself do more things alone, for longer, so I didn't feel bereft if I wasn't part of a couple."

She pauses. "That's a feeling that's hard to get rid of."

Her early years in journalism were tough ones to be a woman. When I ask her if the industry then was prejudiced against women, her reply begins with another person's story.

"It was [sexist and misogynistic] even back in the day with these ladies who had a huge audience right," she continues. "But if you look at the sorts of things that men wrote about women in those days, if you look at, for example, the way that [reality star] Jade Goody was assassinated. Adult, middle class, wealthy men.

"Her life had been so horrifically traumatic. You know, she had cared for an addicted mother. She had really suffered as a child. Came on Big Brother, and she was meant to be fair game, equal to a pig. The way that she was written about and talked about, she got the worst of it, but I always got an enormous avalanche of criticism and personal abuse."

She pauses. "I was definitely one of them. And as I say from my background, I hadn't expected anything. I thought people would say, 'well, she's a nice person'. I didn't think they'd start talking about my physical appearance and harpooning me in that way."

Another pause. "So things have definitely changed. Things have definitely changed, and I do think for the better. The media is less racist and sexist now than when I started. "

Over the years, Vanessa has skewered politicians, celebrated motherhood, revelled in grandmotherhood and dissected the absurdities of modern life. But one of her most important articles was also one of the hardest. She has spoken about her horrific encounter with serial abuser Rolf Harris during her time on The Big Breakfast. She describes him, without hesitation, as the worst person she has ever interviewed. At the time, she kept quiet about her experience.

'The police said, 'We believe you were assaulted by Rolf Harris live on television''

"I didn't go to my bosses," she said quietly. "I didn't make a complaint afterwards."

It wasn't until 2014, nearly two decades later, that the past came crashing back.

"There was a knock at the door. It was the police. They had the tape. They said, 'We believe you were assaulted by Rolf Harris live on television'. I said, 'Gosh, I've never complained'. And they said there was now a case going to court."

DESPITE the pain of reliving it, Vanessa agreed to speak publicly in the hope other victims would come forward. Once again, she put readers, and others, first. And in many ways, that sums up her 25 years at the Daily Express. Through her own trials and triumphs, she has always written with empathy, courage and generosity. Never pretending to be perfect. Never hiding from the truth.

In an industry that devours people and discards voices, Vanessa Feltz has endured – not by shouting the loudest, but by speaking honestly. After 25 years, more than a 1,000 columns, and countless lives touched along the way, her legacy is simple and profound. She made readers feel less alone. And that, in the end, is the greatest achievement of all.

Here's to another 25 years of V and the Daily Express.

OPINION: PAGE 12

DAILY EXPRESSO **Watch Vanessa and JJ Anisiobi in conversation on new episode tonight at 5pm on the Express YouTube Channel**

Man gets Creme Egg barcode tattoo... and it works at till

Matt scans tatt at checkout

A FORMER shop worker who was sick of struggling to scan Cadbury Creme Eggs at the till due to their shape and awkward foil wrappers has had the barcode tattooed on his arm.

Matt Woodger memorised the number during his 12 years in retail and had joked he would have to get a tattoo of it.

The 42-year-old spent £50 on the 3cm x 4cm barcode inking and decided to test it at a local Sainsbury's. Footage of the self-service checkout registering a Creme Egg has been viewed more than 4.8 million times on TikTok. Matt, from Derby, said: "If you work in retail, that barcode number is ingrained in you.

"When I tried it and it worked, both us and the workers lost our marbles then we did it a second time to film it and prove it. It's made a lot of people laugh, so I'm happy about that."

The clip also has 165,000 likes and 700 comments. One said: "Absolute genius. It was the first barcode I memorised working in Woolworths!"

BY **ADAM WAREING**

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Andy climbs out the window while Lokie is held by a rescuer in Newton Poppleford

Superdrug 'misleading'

Some loyalty card 'bargains'

Which? investigation looked at Boots deals

BOOTS and Superdrug have been accused of misleading loyalty card customers by offering deals that "look better than they are".

Which? found hundreds of deals used a higher reference price than what the product was being sold for before or after the offer.

The consumer watchdog said this could make loyalty card customers think they were grabbing a bargain, when it was not the case.

It found 17% of deals were misleading at Boots and around 3% at Superdrug were of concern in its study over six months last year.

Sue Davies of Which? said: "Boots was a loyalty scheme pioneer with its Advantage card but seems to be

Taxing ordeal for man and dog after home floods

A HANDYMAN and his dog are rescued after waking up to find their home submerged in 3ft of water.

Andy Matthews got out of bed to investigate when his burglar alarm went off in the early hours – only to discover he and Lokie were trapped upstairs.

Water had gushed through the property in Newton Poppleford, East Devon, when the River Otter burst its banks during Storm Chandra.

Andy told the BBC: "I just waded through it to see what was going on. I just thought, well, there's absolutely nothing I can do, you can't stop it.

"My computer, that was underwater, and I was going to do my tax return yesterday." He and Lokie

BY **LAUREN BEAVIS**

were taken to safety by North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team. Andy passed his dog to the charity volunteers before climbing out the window.

Then they walked through the garden and up a ladder over a bridge to reach dry ground.

The storm was the third to hit the South West in three weeks – with further rain alerts issued for the region by the Met Office for today and tomorrow.

North Dartmoor Search and Rescue said: "Water levels remain high with extensive damage along the rivers. Take care and keep up to date with the situation from Devon and Cornwall Police posts."

and Boots customers

cite higher reference price

BY **SARAH BARLTROP**

taking its customers for a ride by making some of its deals look better than they really are.

"Superdrug seems to be employing similar pricing tactics – meaning shoppers at two of the biggest players in health and beauty are at risk of being misled."

Which? claimed 119 of 700 Advantage Card deals at Boots could be seen by customers as a better deal than they were, while 162 deals raised concerns across 6,000 products on offer at Superdrug. Which? has called on the Competition and Markets Authority to investigate and create a "meaningful deterrent" for underhand pricing practices, so consumers can trust that deals are genuine.

17%
deals at Boots were found to be misleading

The CMA says reference prices must be the genuine "usual" price.

Boots said: "We have taken on board the guidance and have been working to ensure all our promotions are aligned to it."

Superdrug said: "We always aim to offer value and savings, ensuring we are clear, fair and reward loyalty."

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By **Hannah Britt**

FEARLESS explorer Hari Budha Magar has revealed how he nearly died making history as the only double below the knee amputee to complete the Seven Summits challenge. Hari, 46, who scaled his seventh peak, Mount Vinson in Antarctica on January 7, says of his treacherous final climb: "One slip and you'd fall for kilometres down the mountain."

The Seven Summits is the most coveted mountaineering achievement. It involves scaling Mount Everest, Nepal (29,032ft); Kilimanjaro, Tanzania (19,341ft); Denali, Alaska (20,310ft); Aconcagua, Argentina (22,831ft); Vinson Massif, Antarctica (16,050ft); Carstensz Pyramid, New Guinea (16,023ft) and Elbrus, Russia (18,510ft).

Hari has conquered all but Elbrus, which is inaccessible to Westerners. Instead, he scaled France's Mont Blanc (15,771ft), which was recognised by Guinness World Records.

This amazing achievement comes despite Hari, a brave ex-Gurkha and Army veteran, who won a Pride of Britain Award in 2024, losing both legs when an IED exploded underneath him in Afghanistan in 2010.

Speaking from his home in Canterbury, Kent, Hari, who has three children – Samjhana, 29, Brian, 17, and Ublan, 12 – with wife Urmila, says: "My wife and children met me at the airport with music and banners and flung their arms around me.

"Urmila scolded me and said, 'Don't you dare go and do it again – I was worried about you'. She cooked a chicken biryani and a cake and we opened a bottle of champagne to toast my achievement."

Hari, who summited Mount Vinson on prosthetic legs specially created for snow and ice, admits: "There were very steep slopes between lower and high camp, you are climbing up on a fixed rope. One slip and you'd fall for kilometres down the mountain.

"I was also worried about losing limbs because of the cold. I was crawling up the mountain on all fours at some points."

This was one of a number of moments during the Seven Summits when his life was in danger.

He recalls an incident on Mount Blanc in 2019, saying: "I was attached on a rope with my guide Yubraj at the front, it was steep, the route was like a snake, going left and right.

"He slipped and fell, pulling me with him. Luckily, I had an ice axe in my hands.

"Somehow, miraculously, it went in the ice and saved us from falling to our deaths.

"My right crampon on my foot held us in place, too, as he righted himself. We were both very shaky after that."

But Everest, which Hari summited in 2023, was the toughest challenge. He came face to face with the treacherous Khumbu Icefall, which lies at an elevation of 17,999ft, not far above Base Camp and south-west of the summit.

He says: "We walked under pieces of broken ice bigger than a house, they're holding each other up. It could collapse any time and land on you – and you'd die. What's more, if you became trapped, nobody could dig you out – it's just too dangerous."

And disaster struck after the summit, when Hari's oxygen ran out. The fastest climbers take around eight hours to get from camp four to the summit and back, but it took Hari 25 hours.

He says: "We ran out of oxygen on

Final climb in Antarctica

Hari wore special prosthetic legs; below, on Mt Kilimanjaro

Pictures: ABIRAL RAI/SWNS

'We walked under pieces of ice bigger than a house, they could collapse any time and land on you'

Celebrating completing the Seven Summits challenge on Mt Vinson earlier this month

Hari served in the Royal Gurkha Rifles

Hari with his family; above, tears at the Pride of Britain Awards

Double amputee Hari Budha Magar hopes to inspire others, having just completed the Seven Summits, one of the world's toughest challenges

DARE TO DREAM

Everest, my guide gave me his and saved my life. He made it back down without it, and we were very lucky to come back safe.

"I'll never forget his generosity. The mountain welcomed us that day. But if a mountain decides you're not welcome, you're done for."

Hari, who was born in a cowshed in a Himalayan village with views of the Nepalese mountains Dhaulagiri and Sisne, was one of only 230 people picked from 12,000 applicants to join the Gurkhas.

Awarded an MBE in 2024 for his services to disability awareness, he has backed Sir Keir Starmer – whom he has met – for his takedown of US President Donald Trump for saying Nato troops "stayed a little back, a little off the front lines" while fighting in Afghanistan.

Hari says: "The Prime Minister was right to speak out against Trump. Our veterans should be respected, celebrated and remembered for what they've done for both our country and the world. It's sometimes a risky job. But I have no regrets serving in Afghanistan, even though I lost my legs, and I lost a lot of friends, too."

Hari hopes to raise £884,900 – the height of Everest in metres with two zeros – for five charities: Gurkha Welfare Trust, BLESMA, Pilgrim Bandits, On Course Foundation and Team Forces.

GRATEFUL to all those who have supported his challenge, he adds: "I went through hell and back to make history – but I wasn't alone. I had the Ghurkas with me, the veterans, all those with a disability, my family and soldiers who risked their lives to save mine in Afghanistan. I did this for them. We did this together."

And he has a message of hope for anyone who is struggling with life.

Hari says: "When it's a hard time, don't give up, keep going, there will be a day after night. My legs are never going to grow back. But I can climb mountains with them still.

"Anything is possible – you just have to dare to dream."

● *Donate at www.givewheel.com/fundraising/5346/hari-budha-magar-7-summits-charity-appeal/appeal/*

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Holly Nayler and, below, receiving treatment in hospital as part of a clinical trial

Girl, 5, has rare childhood dementia

A LITTLE girl has been diagnosed with dementia aged just five.

Dinosaur-mad Holly Nayler has a rare form of the childhood degenerative condition that can cause nearly 200 seizures a day.

Parents James, 40, and Lauren, 32, were initially told her condition could be an infection or epilepsy.

Genetic testing later revealed Holly has the life-shortening CLN2 Batten disease, which affects fewer than 50 children in the UK and 2,000 worldwide.

Children with the condition lose the ability to communicate, walk, eat or drink independently, and life expectancy can be as low as five.

BY **CHARLIE BRADLEY** and **FAYE MAYERN**

Holly is taking part in a clinical trial of Brineura enzyme replacement therapy, which is not currently available on the NHS and has an estimated cost of around £500,000 per child per year.

Since April 2024 she has had bi-weekly treatments at London's Great Ormond Street Hospital to slow down the progression of the dementia and loss of her basic skills, with her life expectancy now extended to her late teens.

Dad James, of Colchester, Essex, is calling for the government to safeguard the future security of the drug for other youngsters once the clinical trial ends.

He said: "These children deserve a life and they deserve a life which keeps as many of their skills and functions for as long as possible."

● *To donate and help the family with travel costs, visit gofundme.com/f/holly-the-dinosaur-princess*

The bald facts are hair loss is a disability

Judges make historic ruling

FEMALE baldness can now be officially classified as a "disability," judges have ruled during a £277,000 landmark court fight between a specialist wig maker and the taxman.

Hair extension specialist Mark Sharp and former children's TV presenter Glenn Kinsey launched the business Mark Glenn Ltd in 2001 with a focus on helping women.

But the pair complained they had been scalped by HM Revenue & Customs after being handed a £277,000 VAT bill for sales of their innovative Kinsey System wigs.

They appealed against the bill for the tax years 2018 to 2024, arguing their bespoke hairpieces should be zero-rated for VAT under an exemption for "drugs, medicines, and aids for the disabled".

Now Judge Swami Raghavan and Judge Kevin Poole in the Tax Chamber of the Upper Tribunal have agreed that baldness should be officially seen as a disability for female customers.

BY **RICHARD GITTINS**

HMRC had argued it is a "cosmetic" problem and other issues affecting appearance such as freckles could then also be viewed the same way. But the judges disagreed, ruling: "Severe hair loss in women constitutes an impairment that adversely affects the ability to carry out everyday activities.

"These activities include work, leisure, socialising, self-care and caring for others.

"The women treated by the appellant, those with baldness or patchy hair loss, rather than mere thinning, were, by virtue of that condition, 'disabled'."

The firm's wigs cost customers around £2,400 a year for fitting and maintenance.

Wig firm boss Glenn Kinsey won battle with taxman

30-SECOND CHALLENGE

JUST follow the instructions from left to right, starting with the number given to reach an answer at the end of the row. Set your own 30-second challenge. For the very young or arithmetically rusty, you have 30 seconds for the BEGINNER task.

For a greater challenge, try BEGINNER and INTERMEDIATE in 30 seconds. True mental gymnasts should try INTERMEDIATE and ADVANCED in 30 seconds together.

Today's answers can be found in the puzzles pullout

YOUR ANSWERS

Beginner	15	x4	-16	6/11 OF THIS	+18	÷7	+56	50% OF THIS	-17	
Intermediate	336	÷12	+196	INCREASE BY 25%	-35	3/5 OF THIS	+135	÷6	-29	
Advanced	85	3/5 OF THIS	+291	7/9 OF THIS	-86	INCREASE BY 70%	REVERSE THE DIGITS	÷9	+429	

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EUROMILLIONS
4 23 42 43 47 3 9
THUNDERBALL
14 16 22 27 29 13

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PHONE POLL RESULTS

We asked in our poll on Wednesday:
Can deal with France eventually bring down illegal migration?

YES: 3%
NO: 97%

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	1				7		3	
	8	6	1		2			9
5				2	9			4
	9						8	
		7	3	5		9		2
6					3	4	5	
	7		6	4			2	
	5	4		7	1			6

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MORE PUZZLES – PULLOUT

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

3	1	6	7	5	4	9	8	2
7	2	9	1	3	8	6	4	5
8	5	4	2	6	9	7	1	3
4	7	1	9	2	3	5	6	8
6	8	3	5	1	7	2	9	4
5	9	2	8	4	6	1	3	7
1	4	5	6	8	2	3	7	9
2	3	7	4	9	1	8	5	6
9	6	8	3	7	5	4	2	1

Lawn pro tackles greens in world-record golf bid

Josh, right, during his year-long challenge

A LAWNCARE specialist and amateur golfer has smashed the world record for playing the most courses in a year.

Josh Simpson, 27, completed 652 and raised more than £45,000 for Macmillan and Tapping House, a hospice that cared for his late mum.

He toured the UK in a motorhome he bought especially for the task.

The previous record was 580, set by American Patrick Koenig in 2023.

Josh, whose mum Sallie, 61, died from lung cancer in King's Lynn, Norfolk, that year, said: "At first

BY **AMY REAST**

I came up with reasons why not to. But I thought, 'You're in your prime of life with no commitments, if you're going to do it, do it now."'

Logistics were tough as he had to have another person with him for each course to sign it off. He often played with strangers who saw his appeals online.

Josh, front, racked up 652 courses

After finishing at Princes Golf Club, in Sandwich, Kent, he said: "I miss all the people I met but I don't miss waking up with awful weather and having to play golf. Now it's done, it's great to go into the history books."

Bus driver sacked after punching thief who stole woman's necklace

A BUS driver lost his job after chasing a mugger who stole a passenger's necklace, knocking the thief out and holding him until police arrived.

Mark Hehir told an employment tribunal he was regarded as a "hero", and a detective said he used "force which was proportionate and necessary".

He was sacked by Metroline after the incident aboard the 206 from Wembley, North West London, in June 2024. The

BY **JAMES MANNING**

tribunal heard a man boarded the bus, snatched a woman's necklace and fled. Mr Hehir gave chase, retrieved the jewellery and returned it. But the mugger reappeared and threw "the first punch" at the driver, the hearing was told.

He retaliated in self-defence, flooring the thief, then restraining him on the pavement for almost "half an hour". Both men were arrested but Mr Hehir was released without charge. The next day he was suspended and ordered before a disciplinary hearing.

There he was told the allegations included "bringing the company into disrepute by physically assaulting a passenger". He also "failed to protect his and his passengers' safety by leaving the bus unattended with engine running and chasing an assailant". The internal hearing was shown a police case note in which a detective backed Mr Hehir. But bus operations boss Alina Gioroc, who heard the initial case, told the tribunal she believed "the [man] returned...with the clear intention to apologise".

The Watford tribunal found Metroline's view that Mr Hehir was guilty of gross misconduct was reasonable and upheld his dismissal. Afterwards, the firm said he had "breached protocols".

Driver Mark Hehir lost his job and tribunal case

Champion Natalie Zolty has offered key tips to new Scrabble players

Little word to the wise from UK's Scrabble champ Natalie

A MATHS teacher who became the UK's top female Scrabble champion has revealed her key tips – and it all starts with simple two-letter words.

Natalie Zolty, 61, won the top division at this month's UK Open competition held in Reading, scoring 1,000 points more than her rivals.

Mum-of-one Natalie spends hours learning thousands of words but not necessarily their meaning.

BY **ED CHATTERTON**

She advises new players to start by memorising the two-letter words in the dictionary and to never be afraid to exchange tiles.

Natalie, of Solihull, West Midlands, said: "There are 127 two-letter words allowable. Learn them and you'll be surprised at how you can rack up points."

Natalie took up the hobby about 17 years ago and now ranks among the top 20 UK players.

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TALES FROM THE SET

Seriously, Bishop's comedy debut gave romance a chance

Edited by **KATHRYN CRAVEN**

This week's big release, Is This Thing On? borrows a story from Liverpudlian comedian John Bishop. In 2000, John was a sales rep and his marriage was in trouble. To avoid paying to get into a comedy club, he put his name down for an open-mic night – and found the experience strangely therapeutic, helping get his relationship back on track. Now, a quarter of a century later, Canadian actor/comedian Will Arnett has used Bishop's story as the basis for a screenplay, co-written with Bradley Cooper and Brit screenwriter Mark Chappell.

Is This Thing On? tells the story of comic Alex, played by Will, and his soon-to-be ex-wife Tess, played by Laura Dern. It swaps Manchester's Frog and Bucket club for The Comedy Cellar in New York, where Will himself began his comedy career.

'You could talk about the darker things in your head, but you put a kick on it, make it a little funny'

Will, 55, says: "We all use comedy in different ways, and it becomes a perfect vessel, especially in our story, for this guy, for Alex's character, who's inspired by John, to find his truth." He adds: "We all know life is complicated, that it's weird. Watching these characters navigate that complexity is really beautiful. What's especially meaningful is that they never give up hope."

John, 59, says comedy was never even something he intended to pursue, but found it offered genuine relief.

"What was happening is that you could talk about the darker things in your head, but you put a kick on it, make it a little funny, and someone laughs, it gives you a little endorphin rush."

As for having his story brought to Hollywood, John reveals: "My wife Melanie summed it up perfectly. She said to me, 'If someone had asked me 10 years ago whether they'd make a film about that period of your life, that's the film I'd have wanted'."

GORY STORY *Dylan O'Brien and Rachel McAdams*

COMING SOON

Stranded on a desert island following a plane crash, Linda Liddle (Rachel McAdams) and her arrogant boss Bradley Preston (Dylan O'Brien) play out a battle of the sexes in ghoulish survival comedy thriller Send Help, directed by Sam 'Evil Dead' Raimi. In cinemas February 5.

SHOPPING & REVIEWS

PLAY IT FOR LAUGHS *Will Arnett and John Bishop*

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PLUS Puzzles

FILM YOUR NEXT WATCH

With **DAMON SMITH**

STAR RATINGS
★★★ Excellent
★★★★ Good
Worth a look
★★ Poor
★ Don't bother

FUNNY TIMES *Bradley Cooper, Will Arnett and Andra Day*

LIVE, LAUGH, LOVE AGAIN

IS THIS THING ON?

CERT 15, IN CINEMAS NOW ★★★

The personal life of Liverpudlian comedian John Bishop provides loose inspiration for a thorny relationship comedy drama co-written by director Bradley Cooper, lead actor Will Arnett and Mark Chappell, which professes the most honest and relatable humour is mined from the deepest heartache.

Alex Novak (Arnett) and wife Tess (Laura Dern) are in the early stages of separation, sensitively navigating the end of their marriage while caring for the mental wellbeing of their young sons, Felix (Blake Kane) and Jude (Calvin Knegten).

"Nobody cheated," Alex tells his father Jan (Ciarán Hinds) during a heart-to-heart. His mother Marilyn (Christine Ebersole) and friends Balls (Cooper) and Christine (Andra Day) provide emotional support as Alex and Tess work out the logistics of living separately and sharing custody of the boys.

Unable to afford the cover charge at his drinking den, Alex puts his name down to perform at the Comedy Cellar's open mic night, emceed by Kemp (Amy Sedaris). Off the cuff, he talks about his failed marriage and the audience responds warmly. As he builds confidence and performs more, Alex gravitates back towards Tess, who has a new beau (Peyton Manning).

Is This Thing On? is a gently humorous study of a marriage falling apart and slowly piecing itself back together, powered by a self-deprecating performance from Arnett as a father and husband, who begins to self-reflect and acknowledge his failings when stood in the spotlight. He catalyses winning screen chemistry with Dern – we believe wholeheartedly in Alex and Tess as a couple – but some of the most tender scenes unfold between Arnett and young co-stars Kane and Knegten.

When Felix and Jude stumble upon their father's "joke book", full of anecdotes and deeply personal thoughts about their fractured family, Alex explains his comedy material blends real people and situations with imagined scenarios. "I'm making up stories, because a lot of stuff is changing," he tells the tykes.

Cooper collaborates with cinematographer Matthew Libatique to invest comedy club sequences with nervous, kinetic energy, mirroring Alex's adrenaline rush as he seeks laughter and acceptance from his audience. The film repeatedly wins approval by wearing its heart on a sleeve.

DESTRUCTION *Bautista and Momoa*

THE WRECKING CREW

CERT 15, ON PRIME VIDEO NOW ★★★

Brotherly love stretches around two hours in an action-packed comedy directed by Angel Manuel Soto, who masterminded the 2023 DC Comics adventure Blue Beetle. The Wrecking Crew knows its limitations and operates smoothly within them, trading knockabout banter between muscular co-stars Jason Momoa and Dave Bautista in beautiful locations as expendable parts of Hawaii go up in flames in the name of knuckle-bruised justice.

Jonny (Momoa) is a loose cannon police detective, who is estranged from his disciplined Navy SEAL half-brother, James (Bautista). When their private detective father (Brian Keaulana) is killed in a hit-and-run, half-siblings awkwardly reunite in paradise to uncover the truth about the death. They ignite a turf war with crime gangs and add to the headache of the local police chief (Stephen Root).

Faced with a deadly conspiracy fronted by Machiavellian businessman Marcus Robichaux (Claes Bang) that could potentially tear their family apart, Jonny and James begrudgingly work side by side to avenge the fallen and, perhaps, heal old wounds in the process.

Bolted together by Jonathan Tropper with second-hand parts from 1980s and 1990s buddy cop movies, The Wrecking Crew showcases the unspoilt beauty of island locations in between breathlessly choreographed stunt sequences.

Momoa and Bautista are well versed in unleashing destruction on a grand scale from their Aquaman and Guardians Of The Galaxy antics and the two leads have fun stoking sibling rivalry. Female characters are given short shrift. Boys will be bickering knuckleheads.

CHIMP DOES NOT SKIMP ON HORROR

TERROR *Wyant and Sequoyah in hiding*

PRIMATE

CERT 18, IN CINEMAS NOW ★★★

Cambridge-born director Joahnnes Roberts trades underwater thrills with voracious sharks in 47 Meters Down and its sequel for an uncomfortably close encounter with humans' closest living relative. Set in a remote part of sun-kissed Hawaii, this gore-slathered horror invites the full monty of primate puns: Family pet goes ape. Chimpanzee goes bananas. Rabid companion goes nuts.

College student Lucy Pinborough (Johnny Sequoyah) flies home to paradise with best friend Kate (Victoria Wyant) and rival Hannah (Jessica Alexander) to reunite with her father Adam (Troy Kotsur), a celebrated deaf author, and younger sister Erin (Gia Hunter). The household's other resident, Ben (Miguel Torres Umba), a highly intelligent chimpanzee taught to communicate by Adam's late wife, has been bitten by a rabid mongoose and the animal embarks on a frenzied killing spree.

Primate is a slickly orchestrated battle of man versus nature that doesn't skimp on the stomach-churning practical effects and prosthetics including a chief antagonist realised using Umba's physical performance and sophisticated creature puppetry.

The grim tone is established in a doom-saturated opening sequence that elicits the first audible gasp of disgust. Audience interaction gets louder as Roberts and co-writer Ernest Riera invite Ben to bludgeon and dismember human interlopers, and the monkey business is wince-inducingly graphic.

Sequoyah is a sympathetic heroine and a solid supporting performance from Oscar winner Kotsur allows Roberts to conduct one harrowing sequence in chilling silence. He hears no evil, but we see it, in nauseating, icky close-up.

KANGAROO

CERT PG, IN CINEMAS NOW ★★★

It's never too late to grow up in an overly sentimental fish-out-of-water comedy directed by Kate Woods, which trades unabashedly on the cuteness of one of Australia's indigenous creatures.

Based on a true story, Kangaroo bounds excitedly from one predictable story beat to the next but should enthral family audiences.

Channel 6 weatherman Chris Masterman (Ryan Corr) dreams of promotion on the award-winning breakfast show, Rise And Shine Australia. After a viral video goes tragically wrong, Chris drives from Sydney to Broome for a new role in front of the camera.

Passing through the town of Silver Gum (Tangitjarr) outside Alice Springs, he hits a kangaroo, unintentionally orphaning a baby joey nestled in the mother's pouch. With the help of 12-year-old indigenous Australian girl Charlie (Lily Whiteley), Chris cares for the marsupial, christened Roger, and learns a valuable life lesson about community.

Shot on location in the outback, Kangaroo is a quintessentially Australian adventure, which mines earthy humour from repeated clashes between Chris's big-city expectations and Silver Gum's unpretentious, homespun hospitality.

To quote a dearly departed soap theme tune, good neighbours become good friends in Harry Cripps' screenplay and the tugging of heartstrings is apparent. Corr is a likable hero, albeit one in need of a personality overhaul, and co-star Whiteley plumbs the sadness swimming behind her character's eyes.

Real joeys bring unpredictable energy to their scenes while a digitally augmented larger incarnation of Roger bounds into view on cue in a cliché-peppered and dewy-eyed final act.

LIKEABLE *Corr with Whiteley*

HIGH ALERT *Statham and Breathnach*

SHELTER

CERT 15, IN CINEMAS NOW ★★★

Jason Statham flexes his muscles for stuntman turned filmmaker Ric Roman Waugh in a high-stakes espionage thriller written by Ward Parry, which models its clandestine asset handling, propulsive car chases and bone-crunching fisticuffs on Jason Bourne's gung-ho escapades.

Michael Mason (Statham) is an ex-Special Forces soldier, who was once wielded as a "precision instrument" by the British government to carry out covert operations. He now lives off-grid in a lighthouse in the Outer Hebrides.

Every week, an orphaned girl named Jesse (Bodhi Rae Breathnach) and her uncle travel by boat to drop off supplies. When a storm strands Jesse on Michael's windswept sanctuary, he ventures to the mainland for medical supplies and triggers a top priority alert to the country's newly installed MI6 chief (Naomi Ackie).

Shelter is a slick, propulsive action thriller distinguished by touching rapport between Statham's glowering brute and Breathnach's feisty tyke. The teen actor recently portrayed Shakespeare's eldest daughter Susanna in Hamnet and she possesses a fragility and wide-eyed innocence that contrasts sharply with Statham's brute force delivery.

Drawing on his experience as a performer, Waugh understands how to choreograph action for maximum impact. One fight between Statham and Bryan Vigier's rival assassin pauses for breath between flurries of bone-crunching kicks, jabs and punches to heighten tension. A different and more satisfying resolution is in the film's grasp but screenwriter Parry takes shelter on the path most travelled.

BOOKS YOUR NEXT READ

With **CASEY COOPER-FISKE**

AUTHOR OF THE WEEK

Kathy Reichs

Bestselling crime writer opens up about keeping characters fresh, and hopes for a Bones reboot

When Kathy Reichs sat down to write the 24th instalment in her Temperance Brennan series, she had a killer question in mind. What does evil look like? And as usual, science played a key part in getting to the answer.

"I wanted to address the question of evil. What is evil? How do different societies define evil differently? And how do they deal with evil acts?" says Reichs, 77, about her new book.

Evil Bones starts with the discovery of several mutilated animals but turns into an even grimmer scenario as the killer moves on to bigger targets.

Forensic anthropologist Temperance, known as Tempe, is joined on the trail with her niece Ruthie and retired detective Erskine 'Skinny' Slidell.

And you can rely on Reichs for accuracy – she spent years working as a forensic anthropologist. The hit TV series Bones – which she wrote and produced – was based on her work and her books.

Over the course of her life, Reichs has taught FBI agents, helped identify human remains from 9/11, the Second World War and the Korean War, and travelled to Rwanda to testify at the UN tribunal on genocide.

"I am a forensic anthropologist. I have worked in forensic crime, and medical, legal and crime labs. I'm retired now, but I did that for years and years," the American author says.

"So I have a lot of colleagues I can go to for advice when I'm constructing the villain or laying the path for the clues.

"I write murder mysteries, but the difference is the solution is driven by science, by some aspect of forensic science. I always look for the advice of the experts, because I do try to get both the psychology, as much as I can, and the physical evidence correct and accurate."

Her extensive CV has also seen her examining dead bodies in mortuaries and consulting for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in North Carolina. She wrote academic scientific papers long before her novels.

Her debut thriller, Deja Dead, was published in 1997, after she'd worked on a serial killer case, which formed the basis of the story. It topped the bestseller list, both in the US and in Britain, and also introduced readers to Tempe.

Other novels in the series include A Conspiracy Of Bones, The Bone Code and last year's Fire And Bones.

So, how does she keep the character of Tempe fresh?

"That's a challenge," she admits. "You have to keep the character evolving and growing, keep the relationships evolving and growing.

"Each book, the reader wants to see the protagonist that they've come to know and love or hate, but you also have to bring in new characters.

"And so in this book, we've got Tempe and we've got Skinny Slidell, who's someone she interacts with frequently, and there's a bit of tension between Tempe and Skinny. I think I enjoy writing dialogue for Skinny more than anybody else, he's a character.

"You need each character to be unique and interesting, not necessarily good. They can be evil, but each character has to be distinct, and their actions have to contribute to the story, and they have to make sense. You can't have people doing something or just relying on coincidence, it all has to tie together and make sense and contribute to the movement forward of the story."

Her approach to ensuring it's still accessible is three-fold.

"I have kind of a three-prong rule-of-thumb for myself that the science parts have to be brief, which, having written scientific textbooks, that's certainly not the case.

"And they have to be jargon-free. And they have to be entertaining, which is certainly not a prerequisite for writing textbooks.

So while she doesn't want to "dumb it down" she also wants readers to "understand it... you want to keep their attention".

With 24 books in the series now, Reichs says she outlines the first six to eight chapters, then just starts writing.

"But I do know where the book is going to end, the forensic thrillers, the villain is going to get caught. But I won't say that I haven't had some things come to me, surprises, come to me along the way in the writing process. And I decide to maybe take a little side turn, or throw in a red herring clue, which is fair as long as you explain them and tie them off and they make sense."

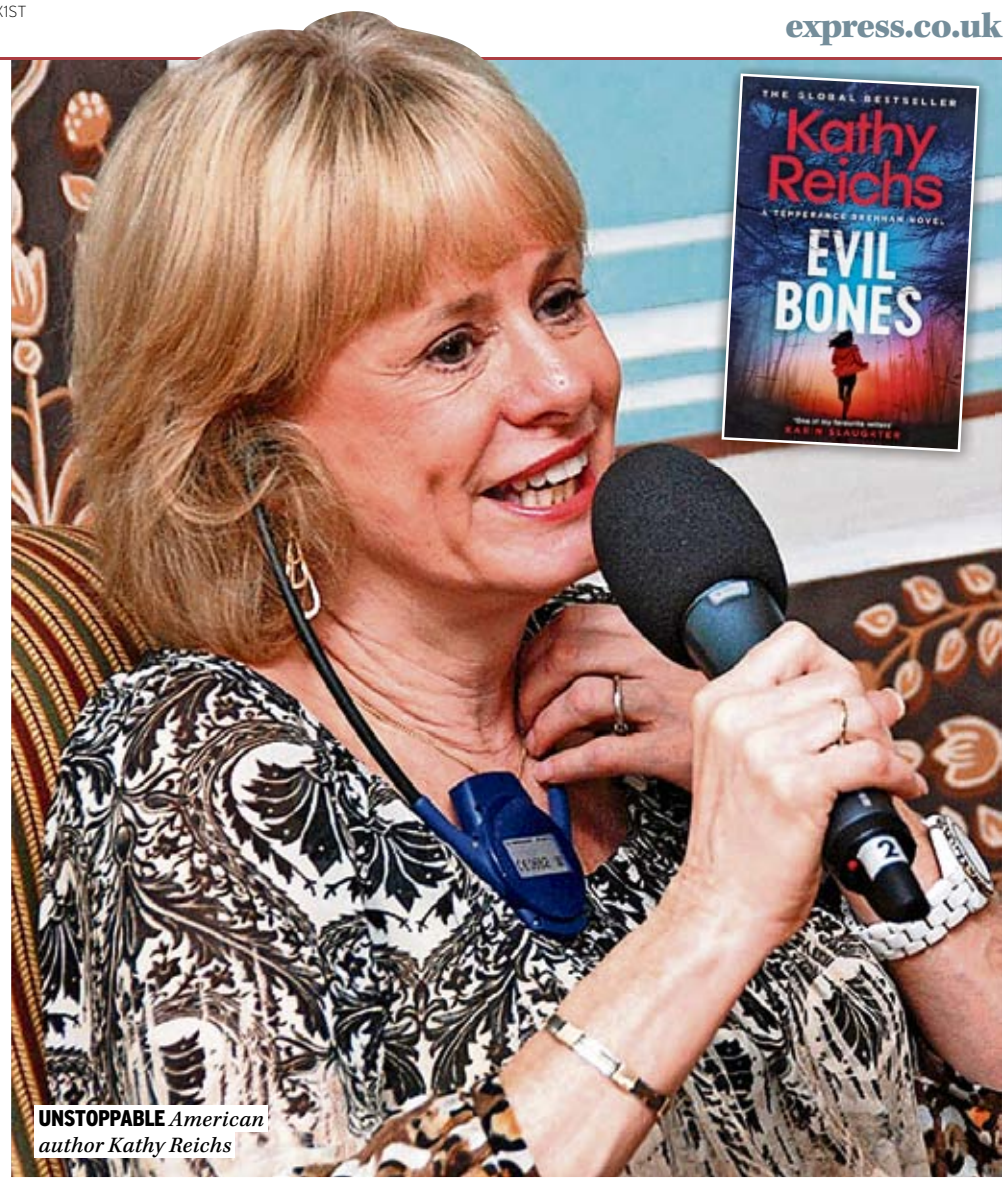
It was back in 2005 that the TV series Bones first aired. Lead characters FBI agent Seeley Booth, was played by Buffy the Vampire Slayer star David Boreanaz, with the character of forensic anthropologist Dr Temperance Brennan played by Emily Deschanel.

The series ended in 2017, with an impressive 12 seasons under its belt. Does Reichs think it will ever make a return to the small screen?

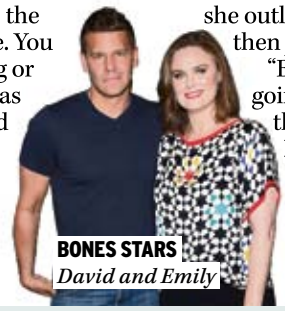
"I don't think we'll do it," she says. "We might do a reboot, like a one-time, one-off reunion kind of show. I think David and Emily might be up for that, and it would depend on whether David and Emily are available."

No bones about it – fans would kill to see that one.

Evil Bones by Kathy Reichs is published in hardback and is out now

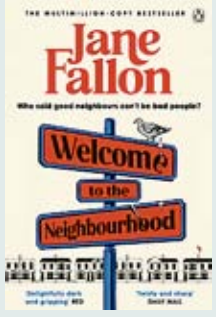


UNSTOPPABLE *American author Kathy Reichs*



BONES STARS *David and Emily*

FOUR NEW BOOKS TO READ THIS WEEK



WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

BY JANE FALLON, PAPERBACK, £9.99

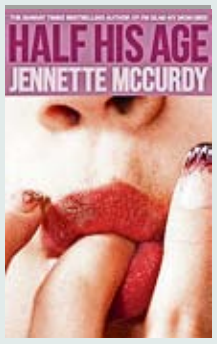
This captures the envy and intrigue that simmers among a group of friends and neighbours.

Kitty finds herself living in the most boring part of London – not central enough to be exciting, but not far enough out to feel rural or quaint.

Life is lonely and uneventful until new neighbours Sian and Rich arrive, and Kitty is swept up in the allure of their dynamic lifestyle. But when Kitty begins to suspect Rich isn't being faithful, she and her best friend Grace set out to uncover the truth – or what they believe it to be.

Amusing and well-rounded, this is chick lit done right.

The characters keep you guessing throughout, while the story stays engaging and relatively comforting overall. **9/10**



HALF HIS AGE

BY JENNETTE McCURDY, HARDBACK, £16.99

This may be former child actress Jennette McCurdy's second book (her memoir, I'm Glad My Mom Died, was published in 2022), but it is her first novel. How much of the dark, sad, but funny Half His Age is based on her we don't know, but it felt truly visceral at times.

Waldo is a 17-year-old high-school student. She's had to grow up too quickly and finds her thrills by online shopping late at night. She has just broken up with her boyfriend, not that she is particularly bothered by that, and decides her writing teacher is the one for her.

She must have him, all of him. McCurdy keeps the prose direct, with short sentences and brief chapters, and the pace is extraordinary. Waldo is complex and while she pursues Mr Korgy, she's also a victim of abuse – a child in an adult's body with no support system. **9/10**

MAY WE FEED THE KING

BY REBECCA PERRY, HARDBACK, £14.99

A curator invited to dress the rooms of a stately home for an exhibition chooses the reign of an almost-forgotten king.

As she gathers props, her grief on a recent loss leads her to reflect on the king's life.

A third son, he was never meant to rule, and he struggles with the power thrust upon him. When his advisers plot to oust him, the king, his queen, and their respective lovers plan a final audacious act.

At its heart, this is an extended fable musing on the transience of things society deems important and choice. Perry employs stylistic decisions to force a distance between the narrative and reader, and although there's beauty and skill in the descriptions, there's no substance to anchor it. You'll find a novel that's unusual, literary and ornamental. **6/10**

START WHERE YOU ARE: THE BEGINNER'S 5K RUNNING GUIDE FOR WOMEN

BY SABRINA PACE-HUMPHREYS, PAPERBACK, £16.99

In 2009, struggling with postnatal depression, Sabrina Pace-Humphreys was not a runner, and now she's written a book about the joys, challenges and myriad benefits pulling on a pair of trainers can offer.

The premise is, if she can do it, what's stopping you? She's all about the "running sisterhood", finding a community, and feeling safe and empowered to try it then smash a 5k.

The book is packed with practical advice, and there are diagrams of warm-up exercises, plus a real understanding of how menopause can affect running and confidence. Some advice is a little obvious, but this is a thorough beginner's guide that more experienced runners could dip in and out of too. **7/10**

PODCASTS NOW HEAR THIS

With **KAY HARRISON**

PODCAST OF THE WEEK

MIX IT UP
Travelling bartender's inside story on sake

BETWEEN DRINKS

RAISING A GLASS TO A WORLD OF DISCOVERY

It's been a long wait between drinks for many this month. But while the sober movement grows louder, spirits get their due respect in this second series, confidently hosted by travelling bartender Caro Griffen, a woman on a mission.

The top sommelier and "beverage nerd" has spent the past decade exploring 30 countries and their bar shelves to give you a greater appreciation of what you stick in your glass, and to make stranger drinks less intimidating.

Like my bitter frenemy, sake, the fascinating focus of her first show back. This rice wine feels worlds apart from sauvignons, but maybe we should embrace it beyond a novelty shot at Wagamamas – there are endless varieties, sparkling and fruity versions, and it's even good with cheese.

Caro delivers a pacy and passionate cocktail of history, travel, culture and science, having spent two months hoofing it around Japan to speak to bartenders, distillers and enthusiasts. You learn about the polishing rice process, koji mould – sake's vital ingredient, which also gives soy sauce that umami flavour – and how things have changed since the first sakes were drunk 3,000 years ago. I'm sure I've a bottle hiding behind my slow cooker that's older than that.

If you thought squishing grapes with feet was odd, you ain't drunk nothing yet – sake was originally made by Japanese women who chewed rice and spat grains out into a common container.

Thankfully, things have moved on, and in Hyogo, a prefecture known for its premium sake, Caro finds a fourth-generation master brewer "Toji". He's busy preserving tradition while trying to lure the younger generation who've had their heads turned by beer and whisky. Which happens to be the subject of an upcoming show, covering the first distillers, who studied in Scotland and perfected their own version.

Much to learn, too, about shochu, Japan's national spirit. Generally made from sweet potato with more of that magic mould, and best drunk with hot water, it's largely unknown outside of Japan.

You can also travel back to Mexico in series one, checking out its speciality coffee and gin.

It's got the power to change what you order at the bar. Or at the very least, impress the barmaid.

CATCHING UP WITH THE ROYALS

Look who's just entered the podcast ring. TV channel 5 has its first vodcast featuring cosy chitter-chatter between Reverend Richard Coles and royal correspondent Emily Andrews.

They're lounging on sofas dissecting Britain's longest soap opera, giving their take on the latest news and rumours, and helping us peasants understand how The Firm operates.

There's insight aplenty – Emily's ear is pressed up to the palace walls thanks to her years travelling with King Charles & Co, while Richard just happens to be chummy with Princess Diana's brother, Charles Spencer, having hosted The Rabbit Hole Detectives history podcast together.

Catch it wherever you get your podcasts and on YouTube, and it's on 5 the following Saturday at 1.55pm. There's another 5 vodcast incoming, A Night With Sally Lindsay, with the former Corrie star speaking to celebs about TV moments that shaped them.

BRITISH SCANDAL

The three-time British Podcast Award-winner is on to its 65th series, and having covered everything from the Profumo scandal to the Darwin canoe con, it's turned its glare to the Post Office.

Back as an Audible Original, broadcaster Alice Levine and comedian and former Labour adviser Matt Forde are still holding the reins, with Alice narrating scenes, and the pair interjecting in a Goggleboxy way – as well as anger and giddy disbelief, expect asides on Greggs pasties.

ITV rightly trumpeted Sir Alan Bates, but the focus here is on subpostmistress Jo Hamilton. And there's a powerful fourth and final episode featuring an interview with formidable barrister Paul Marshall, who put his neck on the line helping reveal the truth behind Horizon.

He breaks down sharing the toll it's taken on the victims, his clients, including Post Office worker Tracy Felstead, wrongly jailed aged 19. Choice words for ex-CEO Paula Vennells, too, helping Britain stay furious.

Winter. Reader Offer in partnership with Yimbly.com

HELLEBORUS ORIENTALIS MIX

Helleborus Orientalis Mix brings winter colour to your garden. As the colder months stretch on, these hardy perennials awaken from late January and continue to bloom into May, offering saucer-shaped flowers in white, pink, green, purple, red or nearly black.

Glossy evergreen leaves frame each flower, adding richness and structure to borders, containers, slopes or under trees. Fully hardy to -20°C, they need no winter protection, resist deer and rabbits, and provide nectar for sleepy bees. Supplied in 3 x 9cm pots, they prefer moist, humus-rich soil in dappled shade and reach 30-50cm in height and spread.

Perfect for novice and experienced gardeners, they brighten winter with charm and resilience.

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- Position: Part sun / part shade / full shade
- Height / Spread in maturity: 50cm/50cm
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- Good for: Pots, containers, pollinators

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Winter Sale

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3-TIER MINI GREENHOUSE

Grow plants in smaller outdoor spaces with this 3-tier mini greenhouse. It is designed for use on patios, balconies and in garden corners, making it suitable for growing flowers, herbs and vegetables where space is limited. The greenhouse is built with a steel frame that provides a strong and stable structure. Its three-tier design helps keep plants organised and easy to reach.

Each shelf is made from mesh, allowing excess water to drain away and helping to prevent liquid build-up that could damage the frame. A durable three-layer polyethylene cover helps protect plants from wind and light rain while still allowing light to pass through. The cover includes a roll-up door, making it easier to access plants for watering, feeding and general care.

With its compact size and upright shape, this mini greenhouse provides a practical growing area without taking up too much space. It is suitable for gardeners who want a simple way to protect plants during early growth stages.

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CASH QUEEN BE A SAVVY SHOPPER

Edited by **LAURETTE ZEIMER**

Feelgood food to feed the soul

MAINS

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CATHEDRAL CITY LASAGNE (400G), *Morrisons, was £4.25, now £3.75* ***SAVE: 50p***

FRAY BENTOS CHICKEN MEATBALLS IN GRAVY (380G), *Iceland, £1.25, 10 for £10* ***SAVE: £2.50***

CHICKEN TIKKA MASALA WITH RICE (400G), *Sainsbury's, £4.85, £4.35 with Nectar* ***SAVE: 50p***

IRRESISTIBLE CHICKEN MASALA PIZZA (500G), *Co-op, £5.95, £4 Member Price* ***SAVE: £1.95***

CHICKEN CASSEROLE (300G), *Tesco, £2.60, 4 for 3 with Clubcard* ***SAVE: £2.60***

PIEMINSTER KATE & SIDNEY (BEEF, STEAK AND KIDNEY) PIE (255G), *Waitrose, was £5, now £4* ***SAVE: £1***

TAKE 5 BLACK & WHITE

1 Heart Oven Gloves, *£5.50, Matalan* **Best for...** casseroles

2 Beatrice Stripe Box Pet Bed, *£35, Dunelm* **Best for...** pooches

3 Rockett St George Striped Bowl, *£50, Next* **Best for...** fruit

4 Microfibre Hair Towel, *£19.50, Oliver Bonas* **Best for...** after a shower

5 Santa Monica Swimsuit, *£45, John Lewis* **Best for...** swimming lengths

BUDGET OR BUST: MEN'S JEANS

SAVVY
Mid Wash Stretch Slim Fit Jeans
£15, Matalan

SPEND
Mid Single Slim Fit Classic Stretch Jeans
£28, Next

SPLURGE
Tommy Hilfiger Denton Straight Fit Jeans
£72, John Lewis

January is almost behind us but we're still in the thick of the coldest weeks of the year and we need some winter warmers to keep the chill at bay. From hearty soups and stews to yummy puds and desserts, it's time to stock up on comfort food. Here are 21 deals to warm you up a treat.

SOUPS

HEINZ CREAM OF TOMATO SOUP (400G),
Iceland, £1.70, 10 for £10
SAVE: £7

CHUNKY VEGETABLE (600G),
Waitrose, was £3, now £2.40
SAVE: 60p

HEINZ SCOTCH BROTH (400G),
Co-op, £2.10, 3 for £4.50
SAVE: £1.80

HEINZ BIG SOUP CHICKEN & LEEK (400G),
Tesco, £2.20, 3 for £4 with Clubcard
SAVE: £2.60

YORKSHIRE PROVENDER THAI GREEN CHICKEN NOODLE (560G),
Sainsbury's, £3.50, £2.80 with Nectar
SAVE: 70p

THE BEST PEA & HAM SOUP
(600g), Morrisons, was £3, now £2.50
SAVE: 50p

ASDA CHICKEN & MUSHROOM SOUP (600G),
Asda, £1.84, 2 for £3
SAVE: 68p

PUDS

CARTMEL VILLAGE SHOP STICKY TOFFEE PUDDING (390G),
Waitrose, was £5.25, now £3.93
SAVE: £1.32

MA RAEBURN'S DUTCH PANCAKE BITES (250G),
Iceland, was £2.30, now £1.80
SAVE: 50p

FLAPJACK MINIBITES TUB (18),
Co-op, £3.10, £2.15 Member Price
SAVE: 95p

AMBROSIA SEMOLINA DESSERT (400G),
Morrisons, £2.29, 2 for £3.20
SAVE: £1.38

MR KIPLING SIGNATURE CHOCOLATE BROWNIE PUDDINGS (2X105G),
Tesco, £2.75, £2 with Clubcard
SAVE: 75p

GU BLONDE CHEESECAKE DESSERT (2X82G),
Asda, was £3.77, now £2.50
SAVE: £1.27

WINTER BERRY CRUMBLE (500G),
Sainsbury's, £5, £4.50 with Nectar
SAVE: 50p

*ALL PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

TOP 10 BEAUTY PRODUCTS

HER

Clinique Dramatically Different Moisturising Gel (200ml), Marks & Spencer, was £53, now £39.75
SAVE: £13.25

Sol de Janeiro Hair & Body Mist (90ml), Boots, was £24, now £18
SAVE: £6

Finishing Touches Nail Glue, Superdrug, £3, buy 2nd one half price
SAVE: £1.50

Huda Beauty Blur & Set Primer & Setting Spray, cultbeauty.co.uk, was £26, now £18.20
SAVE: £7.80

Versace Miniatures Eau de Parfum Gift Set, theperfumeshop.com, was £39, now £22.99
SAVE: £16.01

HIM

Kiehl's Ultra Facial Cream (50ml), Boots, was £37, now £29.60
SAVE: £7.40

CK IN2U Man Eau De Toilette, theperfumeshop.com, was £57, now £24.99
SAVE: £32.01

Pasta & Love pre-shaving & Beard Oil (50ml), cultbeauty.co.uk, was £24.50, now £19.60
SAVE: £4.90

Dove Men Care Anti-Perspirant (200ml), Sainsbury's, £4.95, £3.30 with Nectar
SAVE: £1.65

Nail Grooming Set, Superdrug, £4.99, buy 2nd one half price
SAVE: £2.50

GRAB IT

Back by popular demand, Aldi's cult-favourite Collagen Lip Oil (£2.99, 8ml) landed back on the shelves this week. Perfect for the colder months, the nourishing formula helps keep lips looking plump, smooth and hydrated. Enriched with vitamin E and shea butter, it delivers a glossy finish while caring for lips, making it a staple addition to any skincare routine.

WINE WOMEN

Gearing up for International Women's Day in March Tesco is celebrating the inspiring female winemakers whose craft and leadership continue to shape today's wine landscape. The range includes 100% female-owned Amandla Shiraz Zinfandel (£9.75 down to £8.50 with Clubcard), Kylie Petit Rosé by Kylie Minogue (£8, £6.75, with Clubcard) and Bird in Hand Sparkling Rosé by Sarah Burvill (£16, £12 with Clubcard).

STOCK UP

British cleaning brand Vamoosh has launched two smart laundry innovations this week, each designed to tackle everyday frustrations in a simpler, more sustainable way. First up is the Vamoosh Hair Shield Fabric Conditioner (£3.99 from B&M and vamooshcleans.com) for anyone tired of battling pet and human hair on freshly washed clothes. Alongside it are the Vamoosh Fabric Whitener Sheets (£2.99 from B&M, Amazon and vamooshcleans.com), concentrated, dissolvable sheets that restore brightness to dull or greying whites.

WHAT'S NEW

With Chinese New Year on the horizon (February 17) Lush is leaping into the Year of the Horse with a limited-edition New Year collection. From bathing to pampering, each product carries blessings for the coming year. The range includes a Horsepower Massage Bar (£12), a Gallop to Success Bath Bomb (£5) and an Untamed Flame Knot Wrap (£7).

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TODAY'S TV ONES TO WATCH

by **MIKE WARD** *TV critic*

Pick of the day
DEATH IN PARADISE
BBC1, 9PM

THE WHO AT THE ELECTRIC PROMS, BBC4, 10.25PM

FILMED at London's Roundhouse in 2006, Roger Daltrey, Pete Townsend & Co. play several songs we mostly aren't fussed about, but also classics such as Pinball Wizard, Baba O'Riley and My Generation.

"People try to put us down, just because we get around," that last one goes. "Things they do look awful cold / I hope I die before I get old."

And may I take this opportunity to wish an early happy birthday to the man who sang those words with such youthful passion. Roger turns 82 in four weeks' time.

JANE MCDONALD: FROM POLE TO POLE, 5, 8PM

SHE'S done Antarctica, she's ticked off South America, so where do we find lovely Jane on the next leg of her trip?

"I'm in the Med!" she cries. "I've flown to Athens to meet my new yacht, the Emerald Sakara." By "my", I don't think she's actually bought it, because it's huge and she works for 5, not the BBC.

But she's definitely allowed to sail on it, so she's heading first to Italy via the Corinth Canal. She's worried that the vessel won't squeeze through, but I suspect that it's done it before.

COP IDOLS
Gilet and Jackson

IT'S MURDER IN THE CARIBBEAN

NOT so long ago, TV went through a phase where every new show, to stand a chance of success, had to be called "The Great British…" something or other, or "Secrets Of…" this, that or what-have-you. Placing certain words or expressions in a programme's title, it was thought, would act like a lucky charm, giving its ratings a boost.

The same has come to apply these days to shows with the word "Paradise" in theirs. This one, set on the sun-kissed non-existent island of Saint Marie, has become such a success (this new series is its 943rd, would you believe?) that it's spawned two popular spin-offs – namely, Beyond Paradise, set in Devon (a place which actually does exist), and Return To Paradise, set in Australia (which is strongly rumoured to).

And yet it's not as if we haven't had Paradise dramas before. Paradise Postponed, The Paradise Club, Paradise Heights, Paradise Hotel, The Paradise, the list goes on and on.

Well, all right, it doesn't. Those are the only five I can think of. But five, plus the three current ones, is still quite a few, isn't it?

And did the P-word do the trick, ratings-wise, for those earlier examples? Not especially, according to my in-depth research (ie. Google). The Paradise, a Victorian period drama set in England's first department store (remember it now?) and shown in 2012-13, did OK for a bit, but nothing on the scale that Death In Paradise has achieved. My theory is that Paradise has only recently become a byword for cosy crime. And it's cosy crime that millions now go mad for. Me included.

It seems wrong for us to find it entertaining, seeing poor souls bumped off on a weekly basis. But the thing is, we don't, do we? Don't see it, I mean.

A golden rule of cosy crime is never show the graphic stuff – not the killing itself and certainly not the gore. If it's gore you want, watch Silent Witness or the Six Nations.

In tonight's Death In Paradise, for example, a man falls from the roof of Government House, ending up on top of a parked car. And yet, barring a bit of a nosebleed, he looks remarkably well on it. Dead as a dodo, naturally, but well nonetheless.

BEST PROPERTY
AMANDA & ALAN'S GREEK JOB BBC1, 7.30PM & 8PM

The latest double bill follows Amanda Holden and Alan Carr as they renovate the master bedroom and transform the land at the front of their rundown property.

BEST DRAMA
DEVIL IN DISGUISE: JOHN WAYNE GACY ITV1, 9PM

Michael Chernus plays the serial killer, who has 33 known victims, but is suspected of killing more. A well-respected community figure, he was leading a sinister double life.

BEST COMEDY
THE LAST LEG C4, 10PM

A new run of the show that pokes fun at the stories hitting the headlines, with Tom Davis and Lorraine Kelly joining Josh Widdicombe, Adam Hills and Alex Brooker.

BEST PETS
DAVID BADDIEL: CAT MAN C4, 8PM

The comedian and lifelong cat devotee challenges the notion that cats "aren't a guy thing", meets life-saving cats and explores how cat family members might be honoured.

TODAY'S PREVIEWS ARE ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

FILM RATINGS

★★★★★ BRILLIANT
★★★★ VERY GOOD
★★★ GOOD
★★ AVERAGE
★ BAD

(R) REPEAT

ALL PROGRAMMES ARE LISTED IN GREENWICH MEAN TIME (GMT).

BBC One

6.00am Breakfast News headlines.
9.30 Morning Live Magazine.
10.45 Rip Off Britain (R)
11.15 Homes Under the Hammer Property auctions. (R)
12.15pm Bargain Hunt Two teams of friends compete in Detling, Kent, assisted by Jonathan Pratt and Catherine Southon.
1.00 BBC News at One; Weather
2.00 Father Brown The sleuth investigates when his friend, the eccentric ventriloquist Uncle Mirth, is arrested.
2.45 Escape to the Country A globetrotting couple wish to move back home for good, so Nicki Chapman lends a hand as they look for a new address in Oxfordshire's countryside for their £650,000 budget.
3.45 The Travelling Auctioneers Items include a gramophone and Victorian jewellery. (R)
4.30 Antiques Road Trip Ishy Khan and Hettie Jago search for treasures in Northumberland.
5.15 Pointless Quiz show. (R)
6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather
6.30 Regional News; Weather

BBC Two

6.30am Lost and Found in the Lakes (R)
7.00 Homes Under the Hammer In Cornwall, Tyne and Wear and the West Midlands. (R)
8.00 Sign Zone: Digging for Britain (R)
9.00 BBC News Headlines.
12.20pm Lifeline (R)
12.30 Political Thinking with Nick Robinson
1.00 Impossible Quiz. (R)
1.45 Brainbox Challenge (R)
2.15 The Boss Quiz. (R)
3.00 The Vintage French Farmhouse Items are bought in France for the British marketplace. (R)
3.45 Who Do You Think You Are? USA With Chris O'Donnell. (R)
4.15 Scotland from the Sky (R)
5.15 Flog It! In Sheffield. (R)
6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games Tasha Ghouri, Jon Kay, Alexandra Mardell and Griff Rhys Jones take part.
6.30 Clive Myrie's African Adventure Clive learns about his family story on a visit to a former slave fort.

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain A lively mix of news, current affairs and lifestyle features.
9.30 Lorraine Entertainment and the latest fashion news.
10.00 This Morning Topical daily magazine, featuring a mix of celebrity chat, showbusiness news, advice and discussion.
12.30pm Loose Women Celebrity interviews and topical debate.
1.30 ITV News; Weather
1.55 Regional News; Weather
2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal David Dickinson and his dealers are in Port Sunlight on the Wirral in Merseyside. Last in series.
3.00 Time Is Money Quiz show, hosted by Sara Davies.
3.59 Regional Weather
4.00 Deal or No Deal Stephen Mulhern hosts as Helen tries to open the 22 red boxes in the right order, taking on the infamous Banker.
5.00 The Chase Deb, Jarrel, Chris and Claire take part.
6.00 Regional News; Weather
6.30 ITV Evening News The latest news headlines; Weather

Channel 4

6.25am Cheers Triple bill. (R)
7.50 Everybody Loves Raymond Triple bill of the comedy. (R)
9.10 Frasier Four episodes. (R)
11.10 American Pickers (R)
12.05pm Channel 4 News
12.10 Car S.O.S Revisiting vehicles from the first four series. (R)
1.10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It Simon O'Brien and Henry Cole meet a blacksmith. (R)
2.10 Countdown Tom Read Wilson is in Dictionary Corner.
3.00 A Place in the Sun A retired couple seek a holiday home in Mijas Costa, Spain. (R)
4.00 A New Life in the Sun A setback disrupts a Bristol family's first biking tour holiday.
5.00 Chateau DIY: Win the Dream The last two pairs head to Chateau de Lalacelle where they must plan and host a real event for real guests.
6.00 A Place in the Sun Lee helps Vanessa and Peter find a property in one of the inland towns of Almeria Province of southern Spain. The pair have a budget of £180,000.

5

6.00am Milkshake! Children's TV.
9.15 Jeremy Vine Discussion.
11.30 Storm & Alexis Discussion.
12.45pm 5 News at Lunchtime
12.50 Matt Allwright Debate.
2.00 Vanessa Discussion show, presented by Vanessa Feltz.
3.00 The Madame Blanc Mysteries The CEO of a major company goes missing, but not for long. Jeremy and Judith find his body in a dinghy while on a jet ski ride. Murder mystery, with Sally Lindsay. (R)
4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun Jojo and Bambi weigh a big risk for their caravan venture, Mark and Lisa squeeze in Benidorm fun before Brexit rules kick in, and tribute singer Ben swaps Gary Barlow for Neil Diamond.
5.00 5 News at 5 Headlines.
6.00 The Motorway Two patrollers' lives are endangered when a van driver ignores emergency signals and attempts to drive past a crash site on the hard shoulder. (R); 5 News Update

10.40pm, THE GRAHAM NORTON...: Chris Hemsworth

7pm, MONTY DON'S RHINELAND GARDENS: Monty

8.30pm, CORONATION STREET: Bernie

8pm, DAVID BADDIEL: CAT MAN: David Baddiel

8pm, JANE MCDONALD: FROM POLE TO POLE: Jane McDonald

7

7.00 The One Show Hosted by JB Gill and Clara Amfo.
7.30 Amanda & Alan's Greek Job Double bill. Amanda Holden and Alan Carr tackle the master bedroom; the duo aim to turn the land at the front of the house into a garden.

7.00 Monty Don's Rhineland Gardens Monty travels to the Netherlands, where the Rhine divides into a network of waterways that eventually flow into the North Sea. He discovers how the Rhine has shaped Dutch life. Last in series.

7.30 It'll Be Alright on the Night Unscripted disasters strike for Ant and Dec, Ralf Little, Ricky Tomlinson, Prue Leith, Warwick Davis and more. TV clangers include Bradley Walsh falling over during a recording of Blankety Blank.

7.00 Channel 4 News A round-up of all the latest headlines, in-depth interviews and analysis of political developments and current affairs. Plus, the day's leading sports stories and up-to-the-minute weather reports.

7.00 The Ritz: The World's Most Famous Hotel Uncovering the history and the secrets of a hotel that has been 'putting on The Ritz' for almost 120 years, from the grand opening in 1906 to today. (R); 5 News Update

8

8.30 Would I Lie to You? Team captains David Mitchell and Lee Mack are joined by politician-turned-TV celebrity Gyles Brandreth, Repair Shop contributor Will Kirk, model Tasha Ghouri and comedian Jessica Knappett.

8.00 Gardeners' World Monty Don looks back at seasonal highlights. Carol Klein shares tips to brighten up beds and containers in spring. Plus, Arit Anderson retraces the footsteps of garden designer and writer Vita Sackville-West.

8.00 Emmerdale Rhona makes a heartfelt plea, while Kim is angry and Joe is frustrated.
8.30 Coronation Street Bernie's big night out catches up with her, Abi shares her concerns with Debbie, and Theo takes charge of Todd's finances.

8.00 David Baddiel: Cat Man The comedian, writer and lifelong cat devotee challenges the notion that cats aren't a 'guy thing', meets some life-saving cats and explores the ways feline family members might be honoured. Last in series.

8.00 Jane McDonald: From Pole to Pole The Mediterranean leg of Jane's journey begins as she sails through the 19th century Corinth Canal. She also visits historic Gallipoli in Southern Italy and savours the local delicacy – purple prawns.

9

9.00 *NEW* **Death in Paradise** The return of the detective drama set on the Caribbean island of Saint Marie. Selwyn's return to the department is disrupted by a suspicious incident at Government House, in which a man has fallen from the roof.

9.00 Boom Town: How Merthyr Made the World Steffan Powell explores five key factors – geology, wealth, people, war and innovation – to reveal the story of how the small town of Merthyr Tydfil became the heart of the Industrial Revolution.

9.00 *NEW* **Devil in Disguise: John Wayne Gacy** Drama examining the life of the serial killer, with Michael Chernus. After teenager Robert Piest disappears on his mother's birthday, the police in Des Plaines, Illinois, investigate.

9.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown Jimmy Carr hosts the words-and-numbers quiz, with Jon Richardson and Judi Love taking on Rob Beckett and Miles Jupp. Plus, Dane Buckley is on hand to help the losing team.

9.00 Claudia Winkleman: Behind the Fringe A profile of the former Strictly Come Dancing presenter and host of The Traitors, with contributions from Shirley Ballas, Kai Widdrington, Karen Hauer and Angela Rippon. (R)

10

10.00 BBC News at Ten
10.30 Regional News; Weather
10.40 The Graham Norton Show The host catches up with guests Halle Berry, Chris Hemsworth, John Bishop and Rachel McAdams. Plus, Jessie Ware performs her new single.

10.00 QI Michael Odewale, Cally Beaton and Gyles Brandreth join host Sandi Toksvig and regular panellist Alan Davies for a bit of wordmongery, with contestants trying to avoid those inevitable traps. (R)
10.30 Newsnight; Weather

10.05 ITV News at Ten; Weather
10.35 Regional News; Weather
10.50 *FILM* **Red** (2010, 12) A retired CIA agent survives an assassination attempt and realises something in his past has made him a target. He sets out to reunite the members of his old hit squad to find out who is trying to kill them and why, but in the process, uncovers dangerous secrets. Action thriller, with Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman, John Malkovich and Helen Mirren. ★★★

10.00 *NEW* **The Last Leg** Hosts Adam Hills, Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker are joined by actor Tom Davis and comedian Ellie Taylor for a comic review of the significant moments of the past seven days.

10.30 X-Rated: Diary of a Stripper Documentary exploring the world of the exotic dancer from social media performances to arena tours, including a look at classes for the art of striptease and the CCTV used on club premises.

11

11.30 RuPaul's Drag Race UK vs the World Nine International members of RuPaul's Drag Race Royal alumni compete to become the champion. In this premiere, the queens launch into the Ruruvision Song Contest. (R)

11.00 *FILM* **Bird** (2024, 15) Premiere. Twelve-year-old Bailey meets an enigmatic drifter while living in a squat in Gravesend with her brother and single father. Drama, starring Nykiya Adams, Franz Rogowski and Barry Keoghan. ★★★★

11.05 *FILM* **The Inbetweeners 2** (2014, 15) The awkward teenagers find university does not live up to their expectations, and go to Australia in search of adventure. Comedy sequel, starring Simon Bird and James Buckley. ★★★★

11.30 Piers Morgan: Uncensored A selection of bold, opinion-led highlights from the presenter's YouTube show, blending interviews, debates and personal commentary on the headline stories that are getting people talking.

12 MIDNIGHT

12.50am *FILM* Get Out (2017, 15) After a photographer and his girlfriend visit her parents, he suspects there is more to the locals than meets the eye. Thriller, starring Daniel Kaluuya and Allison Williams. ★★★★★ **2.30** Weather for the Week Ahead **2.35-6.00am** BBC News. Headlines.

12.55am Sign Zone: Post Office: Who's to Blame? – Panorama (R) **1.25** Sign Zone: Winterwatch. Featuring secretive badgers emerging after dusk. (R) **2.25** Sign Zone: Robson Green's Weekend Escapes (R) **2.55** Sign Zone: Global Eye (R) **3.25-6.40am** This Is BBC Two

12.40am Shop on TV **3.00** Long Lost Family. Mandy is set on finding the big sister she never knew she had, and Jane is also keen to find her surprise sibling. (R) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05-6.00am** Deal or No Deal. Stephen Mulhern hosts as Helen tries to open the 22 red boxes in the right order. (R)

12.55am *FILM* The Day Shall Come (2019, 15) Crime comedy, starring Andrel McPherson. ★★★ **2.25** Ramsay's Hotel Hell. Gordon Ramsay visits a hotel in New Mexico. (R) **3.15** Travel Man: 48 Hours in Malaga (R) **3.45** Jamie's One-Pan Wonders (R) **3.55-6.15am** Four in a Bed (R)

1.00am PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.00** World's Most Scenic Railway Journeys (R) **3.45** Rich House, Poor House (R) **4.35** Amazing Railway Adventures with Nick Knowles (R) **5.25** Entertainment News on 5 **5.35** The Adventures of Paddington (R) **5.45-6.00am** Milo (R)

ITV2 FREEVIEW 6

6.00am CITV **7.30** Celebrity Dinner Date **8.30** Georgia and Tommy: Baby Steps **9.25** The Only Way Is Essex **10.25** The Real Housewives of Miami **11.15** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills **12.15pm** Dinner Date **1.15** Celebrity Dinner Date **2.15** The Only Way Is Essex **3.15** The Real Housewives of Orange County **4.10** The Real Housewives of Miami. Alexia insults Julia. **5.00** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills

6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase

7.00 Deal or No Deal Gameshow.

8.00 The Real Housewives of Orange County The reunion concludes.

9.00 Love Island: All Stars Reality series.

10.05 Beckham v Beckham: The Price of Fame? – Tonight How the celebrity family came apart at the seams.

10.35 Olivia Attwood: Getting Filthy Rich

11.40 Family Guy **12.35am** American Dad! **1.40** Olivia Attwood's Bad Boyfriends **2.35-3.00am** Unwind with ITV

U&Dave FREEVIEW 19

7.10am James May on the Moon **8.00** Border Force: America's Gatekeepers **10.00** How Britain Worked **11.00** Rick Stein's Road to Mexico **12.00noon** Bangers & Cash **2.00** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge **3.00** Top Gear **5.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British

6.00 Rick Stein's Road to Mexico The chef's travels take him through Mexico City, Puebla and Oaxaca.

7.00 Would I Lie to You? The Unseen Bits Extra material from the panel show.

7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games

9.00 QI XL Extended edition. With Julia Zemiro, Sue Perkins and Ross Noble.

10.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You David Tennant hosts.

11.00 Taskmaster Greg Davies gives Alex Horne a telling off in front of everyone.

12.00m't Mock the Week **12.40** Would I Lie to You?. Comedy panel show. **1.20** Would I Lie to You? The Unseen Bits **2.00** Mad Dogs **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

E4 FREEVIEW 13

6.00am Modern Family **6.55** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **7.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **9.00** The Goldbergs **10.00** Modern Family **11.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **1.00pm** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.00** The Simpsons **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** Modern Family **5.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine

6.00 The Simpsons Four episodes.

8.00 First Dates Sixty-three-year-old Jean, a French teacher and avid reader, goes on a date with 65-year-old writer Andy, and they're both eager to find love.

9.00 Celebrity Gogglebox for SU2C Appraisals of The 1% Club Rollover and With Love, Meghan: Holiday Celebration.

10.00 *FILM* **Angel Has Fallen** (2019, 15) Action thriller sequel, starring Gerard Butler and Morgan Freeman. ★★★★

12.20am Naked Attraction **1.30** Celebrity Gogglebox for SU2C **2.30** First Dates **3.25** Naked Attraction **4.15** The Goldbergs **5.05-6.00am** Don't Tell the Bride

ITVQuiz FREEVIEW 28

9.00am Deal or No Deal **10.00** Tipping Point **1.00pm** Lingo **2.00** Tenable **3.00** Ant & Dec's Limitless Win **4.00** Time Is Money **5.00** Deal or No Deal

6.00 Lingo Triple bill. Fighting it out alongside the reigning champions are twins Caitlyn and Alisha and work colleagues Ajmal and Ian; crossing words are brother and sister David and Rachel, Merseyside couple Jo and Zak, and Winchester duo Jamie and Arianne; the reigning champions take on sisters Jo and Lucy and couple Elisha and Joseph, using their powers of deduction to work out words that appear in the Lingo grids and Puzzlewords.

9.00 Alan Carr's Epic Gameshow – Celebrity Special The comedian returns with a star-studded version of Play Your Cards Right, with Mo Farah, Jimi Mistry, Clare Balding and Russell Kane.

10.00 Tipping Point Double bill.

12.00m't Tipping Point **12.55** Tenable **1.50** Unwind **2.00-9.00am** Teleshopping

U&Drama FREEVIEW 20

6.00am Teleshopping **7.30** The Bill **8.30** Doctors **9.40** Classic Holby City **10.45** Classic Casualty **11.50** The Bill **12.50pm** Classic EastEnders **2.10** All Creatures Great and Small **3.10** Howards' Way **4.20** Bergerac **5.20** The Thin Blue Line

6.00 Last of the Summer Wine Triple bill.

8.00 Father Brown Double bill. The priest investigates a death involving pagans; suspicious circumstances surround the death of a local fighter.

10.00 New Tricks The discovery of a Roman sword with traces of blood on it is linked to an unidentified, headless corpse found near Heathrow in March 2008.

11.15 Waking the Dead Part two of two. Boyd investigates the possible links between the men who had been on the self-empowerment weekend in 1996.

12.35am Sister Boniface Mysteries **1.35** The Thin Blue Line **2.20** Last of the Summer Wine **2.50** Catch Me a Killer **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

More4 FREEVIEW 18

8.55am Strangers on a Plane **9.30** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **10.25** A Place in the Sun **11.30** Come Dine with Me: five episodes **2.10pm** Four in a Bed: five episodes **4.50** A Place in the Sun **5.55** Car S.O.S

6.55 Car S.O.S Tim Shaw and Fuzz Townshend head to Leicester to pick up a Mk 3 Ford Cortina, once Britain's top-selling car but now on the automotive endangered species list.

7.55 The Dog House Timid puppy Harry and grumpy Westie Hamish seek new homes. Lily the Beagle has a choice – do another runner or stay put for a cuddle with ex-policeman Stuart and his family.

9.00 Astrid: Murder in Paris Astrid and Raphaelle are recruited by the French secret service, and plunged into the heart of a political and diplomatic conflict involving France and the United States.

10.10 24 Hours in A&E Double bill.

12.10am The Gulf **1.10** 24 Hours in A&E **3.20-3.50am** Food Unwrapped

BBC3 FREEVIEW 23

7.00pm The Catch Up A round-up of the day's news headlines.

7.05 Waterloo Road Double bill. Darius takes charge in Stella's absence but the return of a familiar face stirs old tensions; it's the senior prom and Darius is closer than ever to landing the top job.

9.00 RuPaul's Drag Race UK vs the World Nine International members of RuPaul's Drag Race Royal alumni compete to become the champion. In this premiere, the queens launch into the Ruruvision Song Contest.

10.20 The Traitors Ireland Double bill. Siobhan McSweeney hosts the murder mystery game; the first murder sends shockwaves and suspicion throughout the castle.

12.00m't The Traitors Ireland **1.40** The Beauty Queen and the Catfish **2.25** Zen Motoring **2.40-3.40am** Stacey Dooley: Two Daughters

BBC4 FREEVIEW 9

7.00pm TOTP: 1999 Double bill. Jamie Theakston presents the pop chart programme; Gail Porter presents the pop chart programme.

8.00 TOTP: 1979 Mike Read presents an edition from February 1, 1979.

8.35 TOTP: 1989 Featuring performances by Holly Johnson, Roy Orbison and Sheena Easton.

9.05 TOTP: 1976 Double bill. With Abba, Cliff Richard and Ruby Flipper; featuring archive hits from Marmalade, Tina Charles, Mud, the Rolling Stones and Peter Frampton.

10.25 The Who at the Electric Proms A 2006 performance.

11.15 Pete Townshend: This Cultural Life The guitarist talks to John Wilson about his cultural influences.

11.45 The Who at Glastonbury

12.45am TOTP: 1999: double bill **1.45** TOTP: 1979 **2.25** TOTP: 1989 **2.55-3.35am** TOTP: 1976

GB News FREEVIEW 236

6.00am Breakfast with Stephen and Ellie **9.30** Britain's Newsroom **12.00noon** Good Afternoon Britain **3.00** Martin Daubney. An up-to-the-minute take on the day's events.

6.00 Dewbs & Co Plain-speaking, straight-talking – Michelle Dewberry delivers her take on the day's news.

7.00 Lee Anderson's Real World Lee Anderson brings his Real World show to the Great British public.

8.00 State of the Nation Exploring the issues that matter to Britain.

9.00 Patrick Christys Tonight Replay Top guests tackle the issues that matter, with a take on every story.

11.00 Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition Discussion and debate.

12.00m't The Late Show Live **2.00** Lee Anderson's Real World Replay. Current affairs. **3.00** Patrick Christys Tonight Replay **5.00-6.00am** Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition

Variations & S4C

WALES As BBC1 except: 1.35-1.45pm BBC Wales Today. A round-up of the headlines; Weather **6.30-7.00** BBC Wales Today; Weather **10.30-10.40pm** BBC Wales Today; Weather

MERIDIAN As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Meridian; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Meridian. A round-up of the headlines; Weather **10.35-10.50pm** ITV News Meridian; Weather

CENTRAL As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Central. A round-up of the headlines; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Central; Weather **10.35-10.50pm** ITV News Central; Weather

ITV WALES As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Wales; Weather **7.00-7.30** Vanished Wales. Cameras focus on a demolished suburb, a shipwreck, and a toy factory. **10.35-10.50pm** ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather

WEST As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News West Country; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News West Country; Weather **10.35-10.50pm** ITV News West Country; Weather

ANGLIA As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Anglia. The latest headlines; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Anglia; Weather **10.35-10.50pm** ITV News Anglia; Weather

WESTCOUNTRY As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News West Country; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News West Country; Weather **10.35-10.50pm** ITV News West Country. A round-up of the headlines; Weather

S4C 6.00am Cyw **12.00noon** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **12.05pm** Cartrefi Cymru **12.30** Heno **1.00** Bois y Pizza: Chwe' Gwlad **1.30** Ralio+ **2.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **2.05** Prynhawn Da. Daily magazine. **3.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **3.05** Cynefin **4.00** Awr Fawr **5.00** Stwnsh **6.00** Y Deis. With contestants from Ammanford, Rhydaman and Maldwyn. **6.30** Heno. Nightly magazine programme. **7.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **7.30** *LIVE* Clwb Rygbi. Benetton v Scarlets (kick-off 7.45pm). Live coverage of the United Rugby Championship match at Stadio Comunale Monigo. **9.50** Priodas Pum Mil. Emma and Trystan organise the wedding of Carys and Gareth from Aberporth. **10.50-11.55pm** Antur Itera Tim Lowri Morgan. Lowri Morgan's Itera multi-sport race adventure in Scotland.

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Sport

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

6.00am Sky Sports News **7.00** Sky Sports Breakfast. The latest headlines and reports. **8.30** LIVE **DP World Tour Golf** The Bahrain Championship. Coverage of day two of the tournament at Royal Golf Club in Al Mazrowiah. **1.30pm** Total Football. The definitive take. **2.00** LIVE **WPL** Gujarat Giants v Mumbai Indians. Coverage of the women's T20 match at Baroda Cricket Association Stadium in Vadodara. **5.30** LIVE **PGA Tour Golf** The Farmers Insurance Open. Early coverage of day two in San Diego. **7.30** LIVE **EFL** Bristol City v Derby County (kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage from Ashton Gate. **10.30** LIVE **PGA Tour Golf** The Farmers Insurance Open. Coverage of day two of the tournament. **12.00m't** Sky Sports News. Headlines round-up. **1.00** LIVE **Icons Series Golf** The Reignwood Icons of Football 2026. The first session of the first day of the tournament in Bangkok, Thailand. **5.30-6.00am** Sky Sports News. Headlines.

SKY SPORTS CRICKET

6.00am WPL **7.00** Best of England v South Africa **7.15** LIVE **ICC Under-19s World Cup Cricket** New Zealand v England. Coverage of a Super Six match from Harare Sports Club in Zimbabwe. **3.00pm** LIVE **WPL** Gujarat Giants v Mumbai Indians. Coverage of the women's T20 match. **5.30** Best of England v South Africa **5.45** Best of ICC WT20 **6.00** Big Bash League **7.00** SA20 **8.00** WPL **9.00** Big Bash League **10.00** WPL **12.00m't** Big Bash League **4.00-6.00am** WPL

SKY SPORTS FOOTBALL

6.00am Championship Retro **8.00** EFL Greatest Games **10.00** EFL Cup Final 16 **11.00** 1983: When Aberdeen Ruled Europe **12.00noon** EFL Highlights **12.30** Bundesliga Weekly **1.00** EFL League One Goals **1.30** EFL League Two Goals **2.00** SPFL Round-Up **2.15** SPFL Highlights **2.30** EFL Highlights **4.00** Bundesliga Weekly **4.30** EFL League One Goals **5.00** EFL League Two Goals **5.30** EFL Highlights **6.00** Bundesliga Weekly **6.30** SPFL Round-Up **6.45** SPFL Highlights **7.00** EFL Highlights **7.30** LIVE **EFL** Bristol City v Derby County (kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the Championship match. **10.30** SPFL Round-Up **10.45** SPFL Highlights **11.00** SPFL: Old Firm Derby Best Goals **11.30** EFL Greatest Games **12.00m't** Jimmy Glass: The Great Escape **12.30** EFL Rivalries **2.00** EFL Greatest Games **4.00** EFL Cup Highlights **5.00** Best Goals **5.30-6.00am** EFL Trophy Football

SKY SPORTS GOLF

6.00am Chronicles of a Champion Golfer **7.00** PGA Tour Champions **8.00** The Open Zone **8.30** LIVE **DP World Tour Golf** The Bahrain Championship. Coverage of day two. **1.30pm** Beyond the Scorecard **2.00** TGL. Boston Common Golf Club v The Bay Golf Club. In Palm Beach, Florida. **4.00** PGA Tour Champions Learning Centre **4.30** You Can Play Golf **5.00** LIVE **PGA Tour Golf** The Farmers Insurance Open. Coverage of day two of the tournament. **12.00m't** Beyond the Scorecard. With amateur golfer Josh Simpson. **12.30** You Can Play Golf **1.00** LIVE **Icons Series Golf** The Reignwood Icons of Football 2026. In Bangkok, Thailand. **5.30-6.00am** Nick Dougherty's Tee Time Tips

TNT SPORTS 1

6.45am Cricket Reload **7.00** Sports Reload **7.30** LIVE **Australian Open** Coverage of day 13 of the opening Grand Slam event of the season, with the men's semi-finals at Melbourne Park. **11.30** Cricket Reload **11.45** PL Reload **12.00noon** LIVE **UEFA Champions League** Coverage of the draw for the play-offs of the knockout phase of the competition. **12.30** Inside Serie A **1.00** Cricket Reload **1.15** LIVE **International T20 Cricket** Sri Lanka v England. The first T20 in the three-match series from Pallekele International Cricket Stadium. **5.00** PL Reload **5.15** Sports Reload **5.30** Inside Serie A **6.00** Discovery Golf **6.30** PL Preview **7.00** LIVE **German Masters Snooker** Coverage from the fifth day of the tournament in Berlin. **10.00** Premier League Preview **10.30** UEFA Champions League Magazine **11.00** The Fantasy Show **11.30** Australian Open **1.00-6.00am** LIVE **Australian Open** Coverage of day 14, featuring the doubles finals.

TNT SPORTS 2

8.45am LIVE **Women's Alpine Skiing World Cup** Coverage from the Downhill event in Switzerland. **11.00** The Monuments. The Hahnenkamm race. **11.30** LIVE **Men's Nordic Combined Skiing World Cup** Coverage from the Mass Start 10km. **12.00noon** LIVE **UEFA Champions League** The draw for the play-offs of the knockout phase. **12.30** Premier League Stories. Transfer deals. **1.00** LIVE **German Masters Snooker** Coverage from the fifth day of the tournament in Berlin. **4.00** WRC Review **5.00** Fantasy Show **5.30** PL – The Big Interview **6.00** Fencing Grand Prix **7.00** LIVE **German Masters Snooker** In Berlin. **10.00** Longines FEI Jumping World Cup **11.00** International T20 Cricket Highlights **1.00am** LIVE **Women's T20 Super Smash** Action from the Women's T20 Super Smash. **4.30** TNT Sports Cricket Reload **4.45-8.30am** LIVE **T20 Super Smash** Coverage of this year's Grand Final.

Entertainment & Factual

ITV3 Freeview 10

6.00am Never the Twain **6.35** On the Buses **7.05** Classic Emmerdale **8.05** Classic Coronation Street **9.10** Inspector Morse **11.20** Heartbeat **1.25pm** Foyle's War **3.35** Classic Emmerdale **4.40** Classic Coronation Street **5.50** Heartbeat **8.00** Doc Martin **10.00** Foyle's War **12.00m't** Trial & Retribution **1.30-2.30am** The Larkins

ITV4 Freeview 26

6.00am The Big Match Revisited **8.05** Magnum, PI **9.05** Kojak **10.10** Boon **11.20** The Sweeney **12.25pm** Robin of Sherwood **1.35** Magnum, PI **2.35** Kojak **3.40** Boon **4.50** The Sweeney **5.55** Minder **7.00** LIVE Darts: The World Masters. Coverage of day two from Arena MK in Milton Keynes, featuring the concluding first-round matches, played over the best of five sets. **11.00** All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite **1.00am** Dark Side of the Ring **1.55** The Protectors **2.25** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30-4.00am** Motorsport Mundial

5STAR Freeview 32

8.00am Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun **10.00** Shoplifters & Scammers: At War with the Law **11.00** Traffic Cops **2.00pm** Police Interceptors **5.00** Call the Bailiffs: Time to Pay Up **6.00** Home and Away **7.00** GPs: Behind Closed Doors **8.00** Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts **9.00** 999: Critical Condition **10.00** 999: Emergency Call Out **11.00** Skin A&E **12.00m't** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords **2.45** GPs: Behind Closed Doors **3.35-4.00am** Friends

REALLY Freeview 44

6.00am Celebrity Fantasy Homes **7.00** Cruise TV with LoveitBookit **8.00** Escape to the Country **9.00** Salvage Hunters **12.00noon** Antiques Road Trip **2.00** The Repair Shop **3.00** The Yorkshire Auction House **4.00** Long Lost Family **5.00** A Place in the Sun **6.00** Salvage Hunters **9.00** Unsellable Houses. Lyndsay and Leslie help two sisters update their parents' previous home. **10.00** My Lottery Dream Home. David helps a man find a house for his big sister and her two children in Pueblo, Colorado. **11.00** Help! My House Is Haunted **2.00am** Teleshopping **4.00-6.00am** Salvage Hunters

5ACTION Freeview 33

9.00am Police Interceptors **10.55** FILM Death Rides a Horse (1967/18) ★★ **1.30pm** FILM Gunfight at the OK Corral (1957/PG) Western, starring Burt Lancaster, Kirk Douglas and Dennis Hopper. ★★★★ **4.05** The Motorway **5.00** Traffic Cops **6.00** Police Interceptors **8.00** Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders **9.00** Police: Night Shift 999 **10.00** Cops **11.00** Banged Up Abroad **12.00m't** World's Deadliest Weather: Caught on Camera **1.00** Ice Road Truckers **2.00-4.00am** Trucking Hell

SKY ARTS Freeview 36

6.00am Mozart's Women: A Musical Journey **7.30** The Joy of Painting **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** The Directors **12.00noon** Discovering: Jean Harlow **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** The Art of the Garden **3.00** World War II & Cinema **4.00** The Directors

Under Salt Marsh
Sky Atlantic, 9pm
Kelly Reilly (left) stars in this new crime thriller set in the fictional Welsh town of Morfa Halen. She plays former detective-turned-teacher Jackie Ellis, who discovers the body of a child.

5.00 Discovering: Lee Marvin **6.00** Tales of the Unexpected **7.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **8.00** Guy Garvey: From the Vaults **9.00** I Was a Teenage Sex Pistol **10.45** FILM Pauline Black: A 2-Tone Story (2024/15) Documentary tracing the Selecter frontwoman's career in music. ★★★★ **12.35am** The Sound of Protest **1.55** Women Who Rock **3.10** Greatest Albums Live **4.10** Discovering: U2 **4.40-6.00am** National Trust: National Treasures

U&GOLD

7.35am Ever Decreasing Circles **8.15** The Green Green Grass **8.50** Dad's Army **9.30** Are You Being Served? **10.10** Porridge **10.50** Keeping Up Appearances **11.30** Last of the Summer Wine **12.50pm** The Green Green Grass **1.25** Dad's Army **2.40** Are You Being Served? **3.20** Porridge **4.00** Ever Decreasing Circles **4.40** Last of the Summer Wine **6.00** The Vicar of Dibley **10.05** Men Behaving Badly **10.45** This Time with Alan Partridge **12.05am** The Vicar of Dibley **1.15** Men Behaving Badly **1.55** This Time with Alan Partridge **3.10-4.00am** Last of the Summer Wine

U&YESTERDAY Freeview 27

6.10am Great Continental Railway Journeys **8.00** Bangers & Cash **10.00** Churchill's Bid to Abolish Britain **11.00** World War Weird **12.00noon** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash **4.00** Churchill's Bid to Abolish Britain **5.00** World War Weird **6.00** Antiques Roadshow **7.00** Great Canal Journeys: India. Part one of two. Timothy West and Prunella Scales explore India. **8.00** 'Allo 'Allo! **10.10** Bangers & Cash **1.10-3.00am** Abandoned Engineering

U&ALIBI

7.15am Murdoch Mysteries **9.00** Father Brown **10.00** The Mentalist **11.00** Hudson & Rex **12.00noon** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00** Murdoch Mysteries **4.00** The Mentalist **5.00** Hudson & Rex **6.00** Father Brown **7.00** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **8.00** Death in Paradise **9.00** CSI: Vegas **10.00** I, Jack Wright **11.00** Father Brown **12.00m't** So Help Me Todd **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00-4.00am** Murdoch Mysteries

SKY MAX

6.00am Hawaii Five-0 **8.00** The Flash **9.00** Stargate SG-1 **11.00** SEAL Team **12.00noon** The Flash **1.00** Hawaii Five-0 **3.05** S.W.A.T **4.10** NCIS: Los Angeles **5.15** SEAL Team **6.15** Stargate SG-1 **8.15** Never Mind the Buzzcocks **9.00** An Idiot Abroad **10.00** The 80s: Cinema's Greatest Decade. Stand-out movies. **11.00** Fear the Walking Dead **12.00m't** The Force: Manchester **2.00** Road Wars **3.00** S.W.A.T **4.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **5.00-6.00am** Highway Patrol

SKY ATLANTIC

6.00am Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets **8.00** Boardwalk Empire **10.10** The Sopranos **12.30pm** Game of Thrones **2.50** The Wire **4.00** Westworld **5.40** Deadwood **6.45** Game of Thrones **9.00** Under Salt Marsh. Double bill. Crime drama, starring Kelly Reilly and Rafe Spall. **11.10** Task **12.25am** Deadwood **1.30** The Sopranos **3.50** Game of Thrones **5.05-6.00am** Fish Town

SKY WITNESS

6.00am Nothing to Declare **8.00** Border Patrol **9.00** Send in the Dogs **10.00** Border Security: Canada's Front Line **11.00** A1: Britain's Longest Road **12.00noon** FBI **1.00** The Rookie **3.00** Watson **4.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **5.00** Nothing to Declare **7.00** Police 24/7 **8.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **10.00** Matlock **11.00** The Rookie **12.00m't** FBI **1.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **2.00** The Good Doctor **3.00** Road Wars **5.00-6.00am** The Force: Manchester

SKY COMEDY

8.00am Will & Grace **9.00** Ballers **10.20** Sex and the City **11.30** Entourage **12.30pm** Will & Grace **1.30** Sex and the City **2.40** Ballers **3.50** And Just Like That **4.45** The Office (US) **5.45** Will & Grace **6.45** Community **7.45** Sex and the City **9.00** FILM Chris Rock: Kill the Messenger (2008/18) A compilation of the Emmy Award-winning comedian's views on social, political and celebrity issues from performances around the world. ★★★★ **10.30** And Just Like That **11.25** Community **12.25am** Entourage **1.40** Ballers **3.00** Curb Your Enthusiasm **4.20-5.00am** Silicon Valley

DISCOVERY

6.00am How Do They Do It? **7.00** Wheeler Dealers **9.00** Gold Rush: White Water **11.00** Diesel Brothers **1.00pm** Deadliest Catch **3.00** How Do They Do It? **5.00** Alaska: Homestead Rescue **7.00** Chasing Classic Cars **8.00** Gold Rush **9.00** NEW Expedition Files. Josh Gates investigates a sudden disappearance. **10.00** Expedition Unknown **12.00m't** Deadliest Catch **1.00** Expedition Files **2.00** Expedition Unknown **3.00** Gold Divers **4.00-5.00am** Moonshiners

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

8.00am Inside Incredible Machines **9.00** Primal Survivor **10.00** Seconds from Disaster **11.00** WW2: Hell Under the Sea **12.00noon** World War II: Secrets from Above **1.00** Air Crash Investigation **3.00** Liberation: D-Day to Berlin **4.00** Pirate Ships of the Caribbean: Drain the Oceans **5.00** Ice Road Rescue **6.00** Nazi Megastructures **7.00** Air Crash Investigation **8.00** Jaws @ 50: The Definitive Inside Story **9.55** Lost Ships of WW2 **10.55** Air Crash Investigation **11.55** Toronto Airport Uncovered **12.55am** To Catch a Smuggler **1.55** Trafficked with Mariana Van Zeller **2.25** Made in a Day **3.20** Food Factory **4.10-5.00am** Secrets of the Zoo: Keeper Tales

Radio

BBC RADIO 1

97.6-99.8MHz 6.58am Newsbeat **7.00** Greg James **10.00** Radio 1 Anthems **10.30** Newsbeat **10.33** Radio 1 Anthems **11.00** Group Chat with Nat and Vicky **12.45pm** Newsbeat **1.00** Sam and Danni **3.00** Dance Party Starters **4.00** The Official Chart with Jack Saunders **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dance Party with Danny Howard **8.00** Future Dance with Sarah Story **10.00** Pete Tong **12.00m't** Essential Mix **2.00** Radio 1 Dance Presents **3.00** Club Mix **4.00** Dance Party Starters **5.00-6.00am** Happy Anthems

BBC RADIO 2

88-91MHz 6.30am Scott Mills **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00noon** Jeremy Vine **2.00** DJ Spoony **4.00** Sara Cox **7.00** Michelle Visage **9.00** Sophie Ellis-Bextor's Kitchen Disco **11.00** The Rock Show with Shaun Keaveny **12.00m't** Romesh Ranganathan: For the Love of Hip-Hop **1.00** Tony Blackburn's Sounds of Soul **2.00** Wogan: In His Own Words **4.00** Radio 2 in Concert: Katie Melua **5.00-6.00am** Radio 2 Unwinds

BBC RADIO 3

90.2-92.4MHz 6.30am Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics **1.00pm** Classical Live **4.00** Composer of the Week: Franz Xaver Wolfgang Mozart **5.00** In Tune. Pianist Leon McCawley plays live. **7.00** Classical Mixtape **7.30** Friday Night Is Music Night **9.45** The Essay: On Disappointment **10.00** Late Junction **11.30** 'Round Midnight **12.30-6.30am** Through the Night

CHOICE

Screenshot
Radio 4, 7.15pm
Ellen E Jones and Mark Kermode explore new Iranian cinema, known for its poetic realism, social commentary and distinctive style. Mark speaks to director Babak Anvari, known for directing horror films *Under the Shadow* and *Wounds*, about how Iranian cinema came to have such a huge impact.

BBC RADIO 4

FM 92.4-94.6MHz 6.00am Today **9.00** Desert Island Discs **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** The Food Programme **11.45** Book of the Week: Craftland **12.00noon** News **12.04** AntiSocial **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World at One **1.45** The Fibre Factor **2.00** The Archers **2.15** Drama: Wolf Valley **2.45** Materials of State **3.00** Gardeners' Question Time **3.45** Short Works **4.00** Last Word **4.30** More or Less **5.00** PM **5.57** Weather **6.00** News **6.30** The News Quiz **7.00** The Archers **7.15** Screenshot **8.00** Any Questions? **8.55** This Week in History **9.00** Free Thinking **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: The Memory Police **11.00** Americast **11.30** Today in Parliament **12.00m't** News **12.30** Book of the Week: Craftland **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00** As BBC World Service **5.30** News Summary **5.34** Shipping Forecast **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45-6.00am** Materials of State

BBC RADIO 5 LIVE

693/909kHz 6.00am 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Chiles on Friday **1.00pm** Elis James and John Robins **2.00** Matt Chorley **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** Premier League Kick-Off with Darren Fletcher **9.00** 5 Live Sport **10.00** Stephen Nolan **1.00am** Frances Finn **5.00** 5 Live Boxing **5.30-6.00am** Football Daily

BBC RADIO WALES

FM: 94.6MHz 6.00am Radio Wales News Update **6.05** Wake Up with Radio Wales **6.31** Walescast **7.00** Radio Wales Breakfast **9.00** Lucy Owen **12.00noon** The Phone In **2.00** Eleri Sion **5.00** Radio Wales Drive **6.30** Gwen John: A Portrait of Independence **7.00** Elin Fflur's 70s Playlist **8.00** Elin Fflur's 80s Playlist **9.00** Elin Fflur's 90s Playlist **10.00** Friday Night H **12.00m't** The Party Playlist with H **1.00-7.00am** As Radio 5 Live

CLASSIC FM

100-102MHz 6.30am Dan Walker **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame with Dan Walker **10.00** Alexander Armstrong **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Classic FM at the Movies with Jonathan Ross **9.00** Opera Villains with Sir Bryn Terfel **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Katie Breathwick **4.00-7.00am** Sam Pittis

ABSOLUTE RADIO

DAB 6.00am Dave Berry **10.00** Leona Graham **1.00pm** Ben Burrell **4.00** Bush and Richie **7.00** 80s with Claire Sturgess **10.00** Sophie K **4.00-8.00am** Ben Coley

Movies

FILM4

11.00am The Mouse That Roared (1959/U) Comedy, starring Peter Sellers. ★★★ **12.40pm Gun Fury** (1953/U) Western, starring Rock Hudson and Donna Reed. ★★★ **2.20 Shenandoah** (1965/PG) American Civil War western, starring James Stewart. ★★★ **4.30 Journey to the Center of the Earth** (1959/U) Sci-fi, starring Pat Boone. ★★★★ **7.10 Moon** (2009/15) Sci-fi drama, starring Sam Rockwell and Kevin Spacey. ★★★★ **9.00 Kingsman: The Secret Service** (2015/15) Action comedy based on a comic book, with Colin Firth and Taron Egerton. ★★★★ **11.40 Bone Tomahawk** (2015/18) Western horror, starring Kurt Russell. ★★★★ **2.20-4.00am Slow West** (2015/15) Western, starring Kodi Smit-McPhee. ★★★★

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

6.00am Super Charlie (2024/PG) See 12.35pm. ★★★ **7.30 Smurfs** (2025/PG) See 4.30pm. ★★★ **9.10 The Naked Gun** (2025/15) See 8.00pm. ★★★★ **10.45 Xeno** (2025/PG) See 6.10pm. ★★★ **12.35pm Super Charlie** (2024/PG) Family animation, with the voice of Alex Kelly. ★★★ **2.00 Nuremberg** (2025/15) Thriller, starring Russell Crowe and Rami Malek. ★★★★ **4.30 Smurfs** (2025/PG) Fantasy comedy, featuring the voice of Rihanna. ★★★ **6.10 Xeno** (2025/PG) Fantasy adventure, with Lulu Wilson and Omari Hardwick. ★★★ **8.00 The Naked Gun** (2025/15) Premiere. Following in the footsteps of his legendary father, Frank Drebin Jr must save his police department by solving a case. Comedy reboot, starring Liam Neeson. ★★★★ **9.40 The Toxic Avenger** (2025/18) Comedy horror, starring Peter Dinklage. ★★★ **11.25 Xeno** (2025/PG) See 6.10pm. ★★★ **1.15am Borderline** (2025/15) Dark comedy horror, starring Samara Weaving. ★★★ **3.05 Safe House** (2025/15) Thriller, with Holt McCallany and Hannah John-Kamen. ★★★ **5.10-6.50am All the Devils Are Here** (2025/15) Thriller, starring Eddie Marsan. ★★★

SKY CINEMA DRAMA

4.35pm Beach Rats (2017/15) Powerful drama, with Harris Dickinson. ★★★★ **6.25 Poison** (2024/PG) Drama, with Tim Roth and Trine Dyrholm. ★★★ **8.00 PS I Love You** (2007/12) Romantic drama, with Hilary Swank and Gerard Butler. ★★★★ **10.15 Fifty Shades of Grey** (2015/18) Erotic drama, with Jamie Dornan. ★★★ **12.25am Fifty Shades Darker** (2017/18) Erotic drama sequel, with Dakota Johnson. ★★★ **2.30 Fifty Shades Freed** (2018/18) Drama, with Dakota Johnson and Jamie Dornan. ★★★ **4.25-6.10am Babylon** (1980/18) Drama, with Brinsley Forde and Karl Howman. ★★★

SKY CINEMA FAMILY

4.05pm Robin and the Hoods (2024/PG) Comedy, starring Naomie Harris. ★★★ **6.00 Stuart Little** (1999/U) Adventure, with the voice of Michael J Fox. ★★★★ **7.40 Stuart Little 2** (2002/U) Adventure sequel, with the voice of Michael J Fox. ★★★ **9.10 A Minecraft Movie** (2025/PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Jason Momoa. ★★★★ **11.00 Cats & Dogs** (2001/PG) Comedy, with Jeff Goldblum and Elizabeth Perkins. ★★★ **12.40am The Tiger Rising** (2022/PG) Family drama, starring Dennis Quaid. ★★★ **2.30 Spy Kids** (2001/U) Family adventure, with Antonio Banderas and Carla Gugino. ★★★★ **4.15-6.35am Ride On** (2023/PG) Action drama, starring Jackie Chan and Liu Haocun. ★★★★

TALKING PICTURES TV

4.00pm A Good Read: Sherlock Holmes **4.50 The Spare Tyres** (1967/U) Short comedy, starring Terence Alexander. ★★★ **5.25 Rebecca** (1940/PG) Romantic thriller, with Laurence Olivier and Joan Fontaine. ★★★★★ **8.00 Z Cars** Two boys go on a crime spree. **9.05 The Omega Factor** James Fleet guests. **10.10 Cathy's Curse** (1977/18) Horror, starring Alan Scarfe and Beverly Murray. ★★★ **11.55 Hammer House of Mystery and Suspense** Starring David McCallum. **1.25am Angel** (1984/18) Thriller, starring Donna Wilkes and Cliff Gorman. ★★★ **3.20-5.10am The Party's Over** (1965/12) Drama, starring Oliver Reed. ★★★

GREAT! MYSTERY

4.00pm Diagnosis Murder Detective drama. **5.00 Murder, She Wrote** Whodunit. **6.00 Sue Thomas: FBEye** Crime drama. **7.00 Castle** American crime drama. **8.00 Unforgettable** Crime drama series. **9.00 Garage Sale Mysteries: Guilty Until Proven Innocent** (2016/PG) Thriller, starring Lori Loughlin and Sarah Strange. ★★ **10.55 Aurora Teagarden Mysteries: Heist and Seek** (2020/PG) Mystery, starring Candace Cameron Bure and Niall Matter. ★★★ **12.50am Treacherous** (2018) Thriller. ★★★ **2.30 Live Once, Die Twice** (2006/12) ★★★ **4.05-6.00am Sue Thomas: FBEye**

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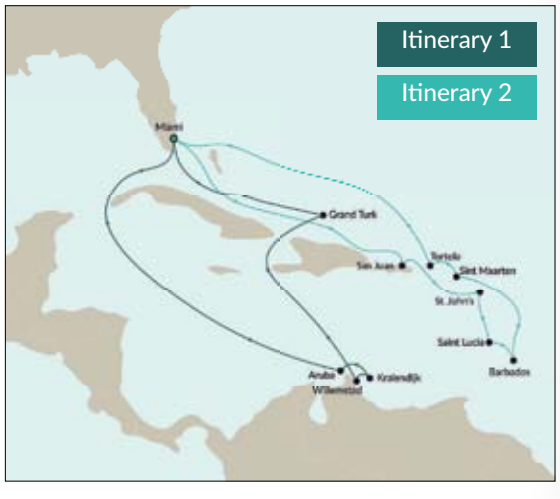

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Letters

Edited by GREG MORGAN

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Reform is a natural home for firebrand Braverman

SUELLA Braverman did absolutely the right thing by joining Reform ("Suella: Defecting is the only way we can fix broken Britain", January 27). I voted Conservative for many years until they were not doing the things that I and many others wanted. I did the same when UKIP came along.

As soon as Reform was formed I voted for them because they represented what my hopes for this country were.

If the party you originally joined is not representing you as when you originally joined it, you go where they agree with your principles.

Terry Martin,
Bordon, Hants

Nigel's party could win next election by default

I'VE always doubted that Reform could gain enough support to win a general election, but I'm now thinking that over the next three years or so, if Labour continues to run the country into the ground and the Conservative Party continues to disintegrate internally the electorate will be thinking "Can it get any worse?" and give Reform the opportunity to prove it is capable of running the country.

Paul Smiley,
Fareham, Hants

Defectors only jump ship for benefit of their voters

I DISAGREE with your reader who believes that politicians jumping ship from the Conservative Party to Reform are doing this solely for themselves and not for the greater good of the party ("Reform UK is same old Tories... always defecting", January 28).

These politicians took this decision for the good of the British public, after much deliberation, and realising that their party is still so out of touch with issues that desperately matter to the British people that the only way to get any change would be to join Reform.

Julie Foster,
Burnley, Lancs

Kemi thrilled to lose toxic ghosts of Boris and Truss

THE sight of the discredited dregs of the Conservative Party defecting to Reform looks much like rats fleeing a sinking ship.

But it could be argued that the Tories will be better off without the likes of Suella Braverman and Robert Jenrick.

Cleansing the toxic legacy of Boris Johnson and Liz Truss will give the chance for more traditional, less extreme Tories to emerge and return the party to some degree of credibility.

Two failed Tory former ministers will only bring more potential infighting and discord to Reform.

Pete Milory,
Trowbridge, Wilts

New recycling centre for washed-up Conservatives

IF ANYONE feels, like me, very angry about all these defections from one party to another, then I'm afraid the "Reformlabtory" party will be losing quite a few votes for taking in these waifs and strays.

Anyone that crosses the floor will never get a vote from me, simply because they are failed MPs who have failed at all the jobs they had and can never be trusted again for switching allegiance.

And I'm very much in favour of a by-election when the occupant moves parties.

Mike Payne,
Princes Risborough, Bucks

Rank amateur Starmer will get eaten alive by Xi

KEIR Starmer is in China for a pilgrimage (or begging session) to his bestie, President Xi Jinping, who has enslaved a million Muslims. Will Keir kiss his feet or elsewhere ("Starmer leaves his party in turmoil to go build bridges with Beijing...", January 27)?

China has no democracy or human rights but burns loads of coal and emits 40 times more carbon than the UK does. They are ideal buddies.

Keir is paying billions to give away the important Chagos Islands to China's ally. Tough negotiation.

Starmer has just rubber-stamped China's plan for a gigantic new embassy hub in London that seems more like a mega spy control centre. Xi eats people like Keir Starmer for breakfast. What could possibly go wrong?

Duncan Hartley,
Solihull, W Mids

It's time for Keir to grow a spine and end invasion

AS FAR as Labour is concerned, it's always somebody else's fault. Yet again Keir Starmer is pleading with anyone, such as China and France, to stop our country's invasion from illegal migrants in small boats, instead of possessing the backbone and courage to do the job himself ("PM asks China to stop the boats", January 29).

Richard Burridge,
Wheatley, Oxon

What will PM sell to China next, Tower of London?

COULD it be that "Never Here, Two-Tier Keir" has gone to China on a mission to sell Tower Bridge and the Tower of London?

Our Government has been successful in selling the Royal Mint in London, a wonderful deal which no doubt will be spun as producing thousands of jobs.

Starmer is dismantling Britain into a Third World entity.

Gerald Norden,
Sandbach, Cheshire

Tiny cabal of Lords block right to dignity in dying

HOW much longer must we put up with peers blocking legislation ("'End assisted dying delays'", January 29)?

We're told that as the Lords are appointed and not elected, their role is confined to utilising their wide-ranging knowledge and experience to improve proposed legislation that is already passed by the Commons.

In reality they exercise their power by approving or blocking bills as their politics or personal beliefs dictate – how else could you explain seven peers taking four months to raise more than 1,200 amendments on just the first of the 59 clauses of the assisted dying bill?

Roy Daniels,
Kingsclere, Hants

Doing things by the book – even if it's an e-reader

WHILE I agree with the sentiment of what Vanessa Feltz says in her column, I too swipe "books" – on an e-reader ("Lazy parents must be read the riot act", January 28). Why lug a heavy tome when I can have several on my e-reader all at once?

Lorraine Southon,
Greenfield, Gtr Manchester

LETTER OF THE DAY

PERFECT PMQs: But Badenoch can't escape party's past

Tory leader must do deal with Farage

KEMI Badenoch sounds increasingly like King Canute trying to stop the tide, with her comments over various departures from the Tories ("Kemi: My party is for serious people and not drama queens", January 29).

Unfortunately for her, although a couple of her speeches and successful PMQs show fight and staying power, she cannot escape the disastrous performance of the last Conservative government even though the current crew are many times worse.

Her best bet is to stop making puerile comments and do a deal with Nigel Farage to strengthen the approach to eject Keir Starmer and his bunch of comedians, because she currently sounds seriously desperate.

Barrie Warren,
Bury, Lancs

WORLD NEEDS A SELL-BY DATE FOR ITS ELDERLY POLITICIANS

WITH the numerous cases of aged, powerful politicians showing increasing mental decline as with the alarming case of President Biden and what now appears President Trump, surely it's time a retirement age for them should be mandatory ("Donald Trump health fears soar – 'becoming unhinged'", January 29).

Erratic decisions are made on impulse rather than by rational thought. In this nuclear age it is even more important than ever that diplomatic discretion is at the forefront, not ranting rhetoric.

Peter Morgan,
Shrewsbury, Salop

TODAY: Friday January 30, 2026

ON THIS DAY

DAILY EXPRESS
Exclusive: The Pop Idols as you've never seen them before
HOSPITAL KILLED THIS BABY'S MUM AND THEY DIDN'T EVEN SAY SORRY

24 years ago (2002)
We reported that a father who was left to raise his daughter alone after his wife died because of appalling hospital blunders said: "They didn't even say sorry."

Nicholas Main was forced to fight a bitter court battle for compensation to be able to pay for toddler Anna's upkeep. His wife, Sundari, died after a caesarean section went wrong during Anna's birth four years earlier, and six months after their marriage.

61 years ago (1965)
Tens of thousands of mourners gathered in London for Sir Winston Churchill's state funeral.

Planning for the funeral had begun 12 years earlier when the wartime leader suffered a stroke during his second term as PM.

It was the last state funeral held in Britain until Queen Elizabeth II's on September 19, 2022.

57 years ago (1969)
The Beatles gave their last public performance, on the roof of Apple Records in London's Savile Row.

Joined by US keyboard player Billy Preston, the group played a 42-minute set of new songs, including Get Back and Don't Let Me Down, before police forced them to shut down.

BIRTHDAYS

Oscar winner **Olivia Colman** is 52. She made her acting debut in the sketch show, Bruiser in 2000. Icon **Dame Vanessa Redgrave** is 89. She has won an Oscar, an Emmy and a Tony. Thor star **Christian Bale** is 52. He starred in Empire Of The Sun at 13. Ex- England striker **Peter Crouch** is 45. He is now a TV presenter.

TODAY'S GIGGLE
Did you hear about the octopus who held up a bank? It was an armed robbery.

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PHIL COLLINS
Born on this day, 1951

ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20

It is not by chance or coincidence that you are going through experiences that enhance your sense of spirituality. What you are going through now deepens your understanding of life and relationships. You might also notice how this helps you approach changes that are going on in the family. Trust that this journey will bring connection.

For more call **0905 789 4171**
(80p/min + network access charge)

TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21

You aren't in the mood to stay in one place for too long. An unusually restless mood seems to have you in its grip. Why not take up a friend's offer to go somewhere on the spur of the moment? Or give out a spontaneous invitation yourself. Embrace the unexpected, for this shift in energy might reveal hidden joys. The day may turn out to be exciting.

For more call **0905 789 4172**
(80p/min + network access charge)

GEMINI MAY 22-JUNE 21

Keep in mind that this is a year that will bring opportunities to boost your income. You might think about pursuing a higher-paying job or find ways to earn some extra money. Have confidence in your money-making ideas. Follow your instincts when it comes to finances. Embrace the feeling that new ventures could lead to unexpected rewards.

For more call **0905 789 4173**
(80p/min + network access charge)

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 23

You could achieve a lot very quickly, provided you don't allow the envious comments of a so-called friend to overshadow your ambition. Ignore their negative remarks. If legal matters leave you puzzled, don't hesitate to ask for an explanation of the facts. Only then can you make an informed decision. Where there is confusion, seek clarity.

For more call **0905 789 4174**
(80p/min + network access charge)

LEO JULY 24-AUG 23

It will feel reassuring to receive positive news about a mortgage, loan, financial or business transaction. Funding for a charity event will mean you can go ahead with your original plans. There may be benefits that come indirectly from a partner or relative. This stability allows your aspirations to take flight. You feel in a better position, financially.

For more call **0905 789 4175**
(80p/min + network access charge)

VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 23

You might wonder how you suddenly became so popular. Plans you are making with a friend are bigger than you at first imagined they would be. You might start with visualising the end goal and work backwards from there. Embrace this newfound attention; it could lead to unexpected opportunities that enrich your journey. Enjoy the excitement this brings.

For more call **0905 789 4176**
(80p/min + network access charge)

LIBRA SEPT 24-OCT 23

Listen to advice that comes your way from an older female relative or colleague. She has some practical suggestions and will offer valuable insights. If you're about to attend an important meeting or interview, a senior executive will have information or ideas that will improve your communication style. This guidance may also open unexpected doors.

For more call **0905 789 4177**
(80p/min + network access charge)

SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22

More time than you had planned or expected will be taken up in conferences, interviews and business meetings. Your main goal is to clear away as much as you can by the end of the day. Despite being in demand, you're still on the right track to achieving this aim. Embrace the chance to connect with others, as these interactions may reveal new insights.

For more call **0905 789 4178**
(80p/min + network access charge)

SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21

With you feeling so bright, take this chance to focus on mental and intellectual tasks. Whether this relates to study or checking accounts, you will be pleased with how much you get through. This is due to your heightened concentration and attention to detail. If there is something you need support with, someone will be easily persuaded to help.

For more call **0905 789 4179**
(80p/min + network access charge)

CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20

You have a chance to make a positive difference in someone else's life. Although this may not be what you had planned for the day, you won't turn your back on this opportunity. You are also taking a new perspective on a family situation. This presents you with an interesting way to deal with a difficult issue, revealing hidden strengths within yourself.

For more call **0905 789 4180**
(80p/min + network access charge)

AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 19

Your thoughts turn to health and fitness. January has been a month that teased you with these ideas and yet many are forgotten as the year continues. Today you feel more positive and optimistic. You have a goal in mind and you intend to reach it. When a friend decides to join you in a similar aim, you can encourage each other to continue.

For more call **0905 789 4181**
(80p/min + network access charge)

PISCES FEB 20-MARCH 20

With still so much you need to do, you could become slightly forgetful. People are depending on you to keep to commitments. It would help if they were to remind you of these, especially if some promises were made some time ago. Amidst the busyness, take a moment to appreciate the support around you. You will find a way to fit it all in.

For more call **0905 789 4182**
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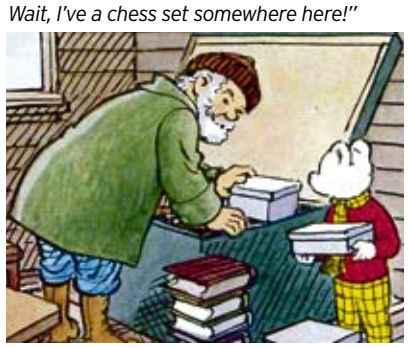
NUTWOOD TALES

RUPERT AND THE PENGUINS No.27

"It's like my daddy's chessboard. Yes! And there are kings in sets of chess!"

"My word, that is a good idea! Wait, I've a chess set somewhere here!"



Rupert turns to the explorer. "The picnic cloth!" he exclaims. "Just look at the pattern! It remind me of my Daddy's chess board and that every chess set has two kings!" The captain chuckles and says, "One of the kings from a chess set could be the fourth royal name you're looking for!" Rupert is just going to rush home for his Daddy's chessmen when the explorer says, "Just a moment. I've some chessmen in my trunk."

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BP	462¾	+6½
GSK	1852	+34½
HSBC Holdings	1270	+11½
Lloyds Banking Group	105½	+1
Saga	500	+66
Shell	2797½	+65
Tesco	420½	+1¼
Unilever	4867½	+52

POPULAR SHARES UNCHANGED	
BT Group	189¾
Vodafone Group	106½

POPULAR SHARES ON THE SLIDE		
Abrdn	218½	-½
AstraZeneca	13460	-48
BAE Systems	1973½	-22
Barclays	479½	-¼
Centrica	189½	-1½
Int Consolidated Airlines	409¾	-8¼
Marks & Spencer Group	364	-6
National Grid	1230	-½
NatWest Group	653½	-3¾
Rolls-Royce Holdings	1201	-7
Sainsbury (J)	316	-½
Whitbread	2736	-13

WORLD MARKETS			
WALL STREET	49071.6	▲	+55.9
TOKYO	53375.6	▲	+16.9
HONG KONG	27968.1	▲	+141.2
GERMANY	24309.5	▼	-513.3
FRANCE	8071.4	▲	+4.7

STERLING VALUE			
Dollar	1.379	▼	-0.002
Yen	210.885	▼	-0.975
Euro	1.155	▼	-0.001

DOLLAR VALUE			
Dollar/Yen	152.891	▼	-0.5167
Dollar/Euro	0.837	▲	+0.0004

COMMODITIES		
GOLD($)	▼	5237.69
KRUGERRAND(£)	▼	3807.11
SILVER(pence)	▼	8084.82
BRENT CRUDE($)	▲	69.11

OTHER INDICATORS	
Base rate	3.75%
Halifax mortgage rate	5.95%
Retail Price Index	+4.2% (CPI +3.4%)
House price Index	+2.5%
Unemployment	1,840,000

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TOURIST'S POUND

Australia	1.91 dollar
Canada	1.82 dollar
China	9.01 renminbi
Czech Rep.	26.34 koruna
Denmark	8.18 krone
Eurozone	1.13 euro
Hong Kong	10.15 dollar
Hungary	411.55 forint
Israel	4.01 shekel
Japan	203.54 yen
Jordan	0.92 dinar
Mexico	22.43 peso
New Zealand	2.21 dollar
Norway	12.75 krone
Poland	4.62 zloty
Saudi Arabia	4.94 riyal
South Africa	20.85 rand
Sweden	11.58 krona
Switzerland	1.03 franc
Thailand	41.25 baht
Turkey	55.85 lira
United States	1.36 dollar

Bank shuts 44 branches as 96% of transactions digital

By **Henry Saker-Clark**

SANTANDER is to shut down another 44 UK bank branches in a move that will put 291 jobs at risk.

The Spain-based banking giant said the closures are part of an overhaul as customers continue to switch towards its digital services.

It said 96% of all transactions are now being completed in digital channels following a rapid increase in online banking customers.

Santander UK's Mike Regnier

Last March Santander announced the closure of 95 branches, hitting 750 workers.

And in July, UK boss Mike Regnier said the lender had cut around 2,000 roles over the previous year, but indicated there "might well be" more job cuts on the way.

Santander said closed branches will be replaced with "community bankers", who will operate from Santander Local stores or banking hubs to keep a presence in local communities.

The high street lender said the latest cuts will leave it with 244 full branches.

It will also operate 19 counter-free branches, 36 reduced-hour branches, six work cafes and 111 Santander Locals.

The firm stressed it is continuing to invest tens of millions of pounds into its branches, refurbishing more than 220 sites over the past six years. It said more than 30 branches are also set for a make-over during the coming year.

A spokeswoman for Santander said: "In response to a continuing and sizeable shift towards customers using digital banking, we are making changes to our branches to better support our customers."

She added: "We will continue to invest in our branch network – comprising of full-service branches, counter-free branches, reduced-hour branches, Santander Locals, and our increasingly popular work cafes – as well as our digital banking services, so we can be there to support our customers however they choose to bank with us."

The series of closures also comes as Santander moves closer to completing its acquisition of TSB from Catalonia's Banco Sabadell for £2.65billion.

This deal, which will bring its rival's network of 175 branches and outlets into the business, is expected to complete later in the quarter.

NO FRILLS AT EASYJET UPDATE

EASYJET'S losses soared by 52% for the three months to December 31 amid strong competition and investment in its Italian operation.

It reported a pre-tax loss of £93m, worse than the £61m a year earlier. This came despite a 7% rise in passenger numbers, better profits at easyJet holidays and fewer disrupted flights.

The Luton-based firm has been running winter bases at the Italian airports of Milan Linate and Rome Fiumicino for the first time and expects the £30m investment to eventually pay off.

Chief Kenton Jarvis said the airline has enjoyed its strongest January sales yet – and 22% of seats on flights for the six months from April are already sold, up from 21% last year.

UK vehicle output suffered

Cyber raid and tariffs put brakes on car makers

NUMBERS of vehicles built in the UK fell by 15% in 2025 as the industry dealt with the toughest year in a generation for manufacturing.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said 717,371 cars and 47,344 commercial vehicles left factories, down 8% and 62% respectively.

Issues affecting production included the damaging cyber attack on JLR, the US tariffs, and ongoing restructuring as plants shift to a decarbonised future.

Over the year, production for the UK market and exports both fell by around 8%. Production of battery electric, plug-in hybrid and hybrid cars increased by 8.3% to just under 300,000 – a record 41.7% share of output.

Mike Hawes, SMMT chief executive, predicted better days ahead, saying: "The outlook for 2026 is one of recovery. Government has set out how it will back the sector and this must be a year of delivery."

++ THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 ++

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
3i Group	3423	+276	4459	2999
A.B. Foods	1893½	-13	2337	1838
Admiral Group	†			
Airtel Africa	341¾	-9¾	372¾	133
Alliance Trust	1246	-20	1324	1050
Anglo American	3500	+24	3662	2003¾
Antofagasta	3786	+78	4176	1383
Ashtead Group	4725#	-387	5594	3659
AstraZeneca	13460	-48	14346	9667
Auto Trader	535¼	-21½	908½	533¾
Aviva	635	+½	692½	493
Babcock International	1457	-32	1502	523
BAE Systems	1973½	-22	2093	1180½
Barclays	479½	-¼	489¾	241¾
Barratt Development	393¼	+1½	482¼	350
Beazley Group	1132	-1	1170	769
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	4110	-24	4324	3524
BP	462¾	+6½	476¼	331¾
British Amer.Tob	4327#	-5	4421	2965
British Land	415½	-¼	420½	321¼
BT Group	189¾#		222¾	141¾
Bunzl	2030	-22	3452	1989
Burberry Group	1120	+5	1371½	627¾
Centrica	189½	-1½	191¾	135¼
Coca-Cola HBC	3960	+22	4034	2788
Compass Group	2172#	-26	2843	2159
Convatec Group	230	+¾	295½	221¼
CRH	8890	+34	9704	6142
Croda International	2720	-28	3383	2465
DCC	4670	+8	5600	4350
Diageo	1638	+15½	2428	1577
Diploma	5340#	-65	5685	3624
EasyJet	473¼	-2½	587¾	427½
Entain	619	-18½	1022	501¼
Experian Group	2695#	-24	4088	2662
F&C Inv Tst	1234#	-15	1272	962
Flutter Entert.	12200	+25	23630	12025
Fresnillo	3900	-216	4448	675
Games Workshop	17240	-190	19840	12410
GlaxoSmithKline	1852	+34½	1901½	1264
Glencore	508	+2	533¾	230
Haleon	371½	-1	415¼	326½
Halma	3542#	-26	3710	2360
Hikma	1517	-16	2340	1505½
Hiscox	1495	+2	1528	1035
HSBC Holdings	1270	+11½	1286¼	713¼
IMI	2752	+36	2780	1606
Imperial Brands	3024	-4	3312	2662
Informa	876½	-9¾	993½	640¼
InterContinental Htl	9782¾	-3592¼	10054¾	5381¾
Intermediate Cap.Grp	1820	-42	2450	1569
Intertek Group	4454	-38	5385	4064
Intl Consolidated Airlines	409¾	-8¼	437	224½
JD Sports	82	-½	104½	63¼
Kingfisher	331½	-5¼	338½	240¼
Land Securities	653½		656¾	499½
Legal & General	265¾	+1	267¾	215¼
Lloyds Banking Grp	105½	+1	107	61¼
London & Stamford Prop	202¼	+1	204½	170½
London Stock Ex	8118	-178	12095	8118
M&G	309¾	+¾	312¾	172¾
Marks & Spencer	364	-6	411¼	318½
Melrose	623¼	-4¼	680	386
Mondi	877½	-9½	1326	819
National Grid	1230	-½	1237½	919¾
NatWest Group	653½	-3¾	667½	411¼
Next	13235	-355	14580	9584
Pearson	946	-3	1379	929¾
Pershing Square Hold	4516	-82	5090	3244
Persimmon	1434½	-15	1459	1037½
Phoenix Group	742	-1½	748½	499¼
Prudential	1196	-3	1219½	655
Reckitt Benckiser	5992	+52	6228	4633
RELX	2594	-98	4135	2589
Rentokil Initial	459	-6½	480¾	309½
Rightmove	495¼	-12	823¾	493
Rio Tinto	6849	+98	7023	4117
Rolls-Royce Group	1201	-7	1305	584¼
Sage Group	955#	-40½	1348	944½
Sainsbury (J)	316	-½	355¾	228¾
Schroders	448¼	-1	467	289¼
Scottish Mortgage	1240	+4½	1263	815¼
SEGRO	765	+5	767	599
Severn Trent	2935	+3	2939	2370
Shell	2797½	+65	2931½	2291½
Smith & Nephew	1213½	-13½	1435	937¾
Smiths Group	2508	-22	2638	1687
Smurfit Kappa	3036	-77	4454	2558
Spirax-Sarco	7335	+5	8190	5445
SSE	2422#	+9	2439	1463½
St James's Place	1519½	+14	1559½	791
Standard Chartered	1838½	-3	1878½	878¾
Tesco	420½	+1¼	475½	314½
Unilever	4867½	+52	6177½	4631
United Utilities	1250#	+6	1254	944½
Vodafone Group	106½#		107¾	64
Weir Group	3264	+6	3390	1984
Whitbread	2736	-13	3274	2335

Bank in the money after bumper 2025

LLOYDS Banking Group beat annual profit expectations despite its compensation bill for mis-selling car loans hitting £1.95bn.

It reported a 12% jump in pre-tax profits to £6.66bn for 2025, up from £5.97bn in 2024 – and upped its outlook for this year.

The result came as it paid another £968m in remediation costs, including £800m for car loans.

Lloyds had a bumper final quarter of 2025 with profits more than doubling to £1.98bn from £824m in 2024. It now expects underlying net interest income of around £14.9bn this year, up from £13.6bn in 2025.

The group said it will increase returns for shareholders, with up to another £1.75bn in share buybacks, on top of a 15% boost to the 2025 dividend. Staff will share £405m in bonuses, up 10% on 2024.

+ BG + Barclays + BT + Centrica + Dixons Carphone + First Group + HSBC + Kingfisher + Marks & Spencer + Next + Prudential + Rolls-Royce + Sainsburys + Tesco + Unilever + Vodafone + Whitbread + WPP

SHARES AT A GLANCE

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	LOW
Aerospace & Defence				
Avon Rubber	1788	-26	2180	1338
Babcock International	1457	-32	1502	523
BAE Systems	1973½	-22	2093	1180½
Chemring Group	503	-13	593	297½
QinetiQ Group	505½#	-14½	572	361
Rolls-Royce Group	1201	-7	1305	584¼
Senior	249	-3	254	115¾
Alternative Energy				
Porvair	860	-6	900	626
Banks				
Barclays	479½	-¼	489¾	241¾
Bco Santander	914	-8	938	400½
Close Brothers	514	-9	550½	266½
HSBC Holdings	1270	+11½	1286¼	713¼
Investec	597½		608	414
Lloyds Banking Grp	105½	+1	107	61¼
Metro Bank	132½	-1	137½	81
NatWest Group	653½	-3¾	667½	411¼
Paragon Group	879	+5½	970	686½
Standard Chartered	1838½	-3	1878½	878¾
Beverages				
Barr (AG)	637	-6	711	593
Coca-Cola HBC	3960	+22	4034	2788
Diageo	1638	+15½	2428	1577
Chemicals				
Carclo	54½	-1¼	80	21
Croda International	2720	-28	3383	2465
Elementis	162	-1	176½	115
Johnson Matthey	2366#	-18	2400	1156
Synthomer	54¾	+¼	158¼	46
Treatt	206	+1	444	186½
Victrex	655#	-80	1048	589
Construction & Materials				
Balfour Beatty	712	-2½	735	390½
Costain Group	176¼	-¾	179½	94
CRH	8890	+34	9704	6142
Dialight	340	+20	364	101
Galliford Try	530	-3	546	321
Gleeson (MJ)	393	-5	538	320
Keller Group	1774	+20	1790	1240
Kier Group	223½	+3	231½	115¼
Marshalls	157¾	-1¼	293	157¾
Morgan Sindall	4900	+20	4985	2945
Severfield-Rowen	28½	+1	52¼	19
Smart (J) & Co	132½#		140	110
Electricity				
Drax Group	898	-12½	918	536½
SSE	2422#	+9	2439	1463½
Telecom Plus	1336	-26	2085	1326
Electronic & Electrical Equipment				
Acal	649	+3	738	486
Halma	3542#	-26	3710	2360
Oxford Instruments	2495	-45	2555	1500
Renishaw	3720	-55	3875	2145
TT Electronics	111¼	+2	154	73
XP Power	1230	+6	1306	621
Equity Investment Instruments				
Aberdeen Asian Sml	378	-6	387	256
Aberforth Smll.Co.	1676	-4	1693	1212
Acorn Income				
Albion Tech.& Gen. VCT	66		71	65½
Alliance Trust	1246	-20	1324	1050
Aurora Inv.Tst.	276	+2	279	212½
AVI Global Tst	262	-1	266½	202
Baillie Gifford Japan	892	-11	951	657
Baillie Gifford Shin Nip	134¼	-½	138½	95½
Bankers Inv.Tst	131½#	-1½	136	101
Baronsmead VCT.2	48½		52	46½
BH Macro GBP	414	+1	415½	371½
Biotech Growth Trust	1215	-30	1285	620
BlackRock Mining	996	-20	1060	406½
Bluehone AiM VCT2	28¼		31	27¼
British Assets Tst	27¾		49¼	26¼
Brunner Inv.Tst.	1440	-12	1490	1140
Caledonia Inv.	371	+½	391½	334½
City Natural Res.Yld	425	-5	443	165¾
City Of London	545#	+1	550	411½
Dunedin Ent.IT.				
Dunedin Income	308		312	262
Edin Wwide Inv	225	-1½	229½	143
Edin.Inv.Tst.	796#	-9	839	680
Edin.US Tracker	381#	-4	386½	289½
Elderstreet VCT	38¾		41	36½
F&C Cap&Inc.	348	-2	354	287
F&C Inv Tst	1234#	-15	1272	962
F&C Smaller Cos	181¾#	-½	184¾	136½
F&C US Smaller Companies	1395	+12½	1480	1115
Fidelity Asian	620		628	454
Fidelity European	426	-1½	434	338½
Fidelity Special	434½	+1½	436	295½
Finsbury Gwth&In	771	-10	962	768½
Foresight Tech.VCT	65½		75½	62
Genesis E.M.F.	1206	+8	1226	632
Graphite Ent	1524	+2	1600	1070
Hansa Tst 'A'	275	+1	276	190
Hansa Tst Plc	275		278	192½
Henderson Far Est	247½#	-8½	256	190½
Henderson High Inc	197#	+2	197½	151
Herald Inv.Tst.	2530	-50	2640	1738
HGCapital Tst.	472	-13	538	448
HSBC Infrastructure	116¾	-¼	125¼	106
Impax Env.Mkt	410	-3½	431	310½
Int.Biotech.Tst.	930	-10	996	480
International Public	125¾	-1	130	107¾
Invesco Asia	438	+1	447	300
Invesco Perp UK	389	-1½	395	313½
JPM American	1100	-14	1178	869
JPM Asian	496#	+5	498	331½
JPM Claverhouse	878#	-4	888	660
JPM Emerg Mkt	145½#	-1	147¾	95
JPM Euro Sml Co.	626#	-1	632	444½
JPM Global Emerging	184	-2	187	118½
JPM Indian	929#	-17	1106	904
JPM Japanese	741#	-2	759	493
JPM Overseas IT	570	-7	609	480
JPM Smaller Co	341	-1½	345½	253
JPM US Sml Co.	407	+2	512	338
Jupiter Euro.	921	-6	959	757
JZ Capital Partners	185		220	184
Law Debenture	1124	-4	1136	788
Lowland Invest Co	172#	+2½	173	114½
Majedie Inv.	279	+3	286	230
Manchester&Lon.	766	-18	944	512
Martin Currie Prtflo Tst.	345#	-2	382	295
Maven Income And Growth VCT 34½			38	33½
Mercantile Inv Tst	266½#	+½	269	202½
Merchants Tst	626	+3	632	474
Mid Wynd Int.	764	-10	836	664
Monks Inv.Tst.	1510	-28	1554	1036
Montanaro Euro Tst.	166½	-2	183½	138
Montanaro Uk	105#	-½	106½	87¾
Murray Inc.Tst.	925	-1	938	754
Murray Int.Tst	336½#	+1	339½	239
New India	710	+2	832	686
New Star Inv.Tst.	126½	-1½	131	100
North Atl.Smlr.Tst	354	-2	360	354
Northern 2 VCT	53½		57	52
Northern Venture	56½		58½	55½
Oxford Tech 2 VCT	7		7	5½
Pacific Assets.	369	-2	378	302
Pacific Horizon	899		913	507
Pantheon Int.	376½	-3	389	266
Pershing Square Hold	4516	-82	5090	3244
Polar Cap.Tech	493	-11	506¾	255½
RCM Technology Trust	540	-14	560	307
RIT Capital Partners	2180	-5	2275	1722
Ruffer Investment	300		308	272½
Schroder Asia	697#	-5	702	461½
Schroder Inc.	355#	+2	358	255
Schroder Japan	320#	-6	334	209
Schroder UK	207		211	158½
Schroder UK M&S	736#	-20	756	520
Scottish American	515	-3	525	454½
Scottish Mortgage	1240	+4½	1263	815¼
Shires Inc.	320#	+2	324	222
Small Comp Div.Tst	135½	-1½	150	124
Standard Life Equity	423		425	288½
Standard Life UK Sml	516	-3	531	426
Temple Bar.	381½	+1½	386½	258
Templeton Emrg.	262#	-2	266	151¾
The European Inv.Tst	108#	-1½	111½	84
Throgmorton Tst.	656	-3	663¼	469
TR Euro.Growth	226#	-3½	229½	163
TR Prop. IT	333	+2½	338½	277½
Witan Pacific	318	-½	323¾	223
Wwide Healthcare	361	-4	397	265½
Financial Services				
3i Group	3423	+276	4459	2999
3i Infrastructure	370½	-2	385	301
Abrdn	218½	-½	225¼	123¾
Ashmore Group	240	+1	242¼	125
Guinness Peat Group	86	-1¼	96	68¼
IG Group	1349	-23	1381	913
Intermediate Cap.Grp.	1820	-42	2450	1569
International Pers Fin	235½	-½	237	121½
IP Group	59¾		65	34¾
Jupiter Fund Man.	189	-¼	193	68
Liontrust Asset Man	235	-2½	458	231½
London Stock Ex.	8118	-178	12095	8118
M&G	309¾	+¾	312¾	172¾
Man Group	259¾	+3½	271¾	154¾
Provident Financial	119½	-1¼	128½	50
Rathbone Brothers	2215	+10	2250	1406
S & U	2400	+10	2420	1330
Schroders	448¼	-1	467	289¼
St James's Place	1519½	+14	1559½	791
Tullett Prebon.	256	-½	311½	228
Walker Crips Group	13½	+¼	14	7½
Fixed Line Telecommunications				
Airtel Africa	341¾	-9¾	372¾	133
BT Group	189¾#		222¾	141¾
Food & Drug Retailers				
Greggs	1625	-22	2182	1418
Marks & Spencer	364	-6	411¼	318½
Ocado	223	-22¾	395½	172¼
Sainsbury (J)	316	-½	355¾	228¾
Tesco	420½	+1¼	475½	314½
Food Producers				
A.B. Foods.	1893½	-13	2337	1838
Anglo-Eastern	1470	+5	1525	650
Carr's Milling	138#		157	117
Cranswick.	5250	-20	5490	4625
Glanbia	1446¼		1446¼	788
Greencore Group	285#	+1½	287	169¼
Kerry Grp 'A' Shs.	6477¾	+207¾	8746¾	6166
Premier Foods	186¾	-2	214½	167
REA Holdings	134	+1	137	61½
Tate & Lyle	376¾	-5¼	661	358
Gas, Water & Multiutilities				
Centrica	189½	-1½	191¾	135¼
National Grid	1230	-½	1237½	919¾
Pennon Group	556½#	-8½	565	387½
Severn Trent	2935	+3	2939	2370
United Utilities	1250#	+6	1254	944½
General Industrials				
Bunzl	2030	-22	3452	1989
Goodwin	25000	-900	26700	6180
Melrose	623¼	-4¼	680	386
Mondi.	877½	-9½	1326	819
Smiths Group	2508	-22	2638	1687
Smurfit Kappa	3036	-77	4454	2558
General Retailers				
ASOS.	328		436½	218½
Auto Trader	535¼	-21½	908½	533¾
B&M Europ Value Ret	178	+1¾	344½	155¼
Caffyns.	415		500	415
Dixons Carphone	148¼	+½	149	85¼
Dunelm	923½	-8½	1232	858½
Frasers Group	693½	-6½	770	546
Halfords Group	150½	+1	174½	116¼
Headlam Group.	44	+¼	132	43½
Howden Joinery	837½	-7	914½	679½
Inchcape	818	+3	824½	638
JD Sports	82	-½	104½	63¼
Kingfisher	331½	-5¼	338½	240¼
Next	13235	-355	14580	9584
Pets At Home	208	-3¼	273¼	192¾
RM Group	105	-2	115	82
Topps Tiles	42#		50	29
WH Smith	671#	-9	1307	613½
Health Care Equipment & Services				
Convatec Group	230	+¾	295½	221¼
Flying Brands	+½		1¾	+½
Smith & Nephew	1213½	-13½	1435	937¾
Household Goods & Home Construction				
Barratt Development	393¾	+1½	482¼	350
Bellway	2740	-10	2982	2166
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	4110	-24	4324	3524
Bovis Homes	666	-2	701	510¾
Mcbride	157½	+1¼	161	107
Persimmon	1434½	-15	1459	1037½
Reckitt Benckiser	5992	+52	6228	4633
Taylor Wimpey	107	-1	123¼	93
Industrial Engineering				
Bodycote	751	-6½	772	460½
Hill & Smith	2225	-20	2360	1530
IMI	2752	+36	2780	1606
Morgan Crucible	230	-½	274	177½
Northgate	383½	+2½	395	273½
Rotork	352½	+4	356	275¾
Spirax-Sarco	7335	+5	8190	5445
Vesuvius	464	-2¼	479	313¾
Weir Group	3264	+6	3390	1984
Xaar	109		145	59
Industrial Metals & Mining				
Castings.	276	+6½	319	234
Evraz				
Ferrexpo	77	-1½	110¾	44¼
Industrial Transportation				
Braemar Shipping Serv	212	-4	275	201
Clarkson	4145	+45	4505	2995
FirstGroup	185¼	+1	233	146½
Fisher (J) & Sons	439	+50½	439	285
Leisure Goods				
Games Workshop	17240	-190	19840	12410
Photo-Me Intl.	139¾	+¼	230	132
Life Insurance				
Aviva	635	+½	692½	493
Chesnara.	307½	+1½	310	212¾
Legal & General	265¾	+1	267¾	215¼
Phoenix Group	742	-1½	748½	499¼
Prudential	1196	-3	1219½	655
Media				
4imprint Group	4065	-55	6030	3035
Bloomsbury Publish.	484	-4	666	468
Future.	531½#	-21½	1029	492½
Informa	876½	-9¾	993½	640¼
ITV	80½	-1½	87¾	66¼
Pearson	946	-3	1379	929¾
Reach	63¼	-2¼	88¼	53
STV Group	110	-3	202	103
Wilmington Group.	290	-13	387	289
WPP Group	296½	-10½	787¾	269
Mining				
Anglo American	3500	+24	3662	2003¾
Anglo Pacific	150½#	+3¼	155¼	50
Antofagasta.	3786	+78	4176	1383
BHP Billiton	2598	+41	2704	1609½
Endeavour Mining	4518	-12	4866	1536
Fresnillo.	3900	-216	4448	675
Gem Diamonds.	2¾		12	2¾
Glencore	508	+2	533¾	230
Hochschild Mining.	709	-20	761	168
Kenmare Res.	258	-7½	436	227
Petra Diamonds	15¾	-¼	30½	10½
Rio Tinto	6849	+98	7023	4117
Mobile Telecommunications				
Vodafone Group	106½#		107¾	64
Nonequity Investment Instruments				
Oryx Int.Gwth.	1252½	+12½	1392½	1042½
Rights &Iss.Inc	2070	+40	2220	1670
Nonlife Insurance				
Admiral Group				
Beazley Group	1132	-1	1170	769
Hiscox.	1495	+2	1528	1035
Lancashire	611	+1	694	523
Oil & Gas Producers				
BP	462¾	+6½	476¼	331¾
Cairn Energy	245	+5½	319½	183
Enquest	12¼	+½	16½	9¾
Gulf Keystone Pet.	182¼	+3	224½	148¾
Harbour Energy.	235¼	+9½	243¼	151¼
Shell	2797½	+65	2931½	2291½
Soco International	21¾	+½	25	18
Tullow Oil	9	+1	21½	4
Oil Equipment, Services & Distribution				
Hunting.	453	+12½	463	246½
John Wood Group	26		72½	17¼
Personal Goods				
Burberry Group	1120	+5	1371½	627¾
PZ Cussons	71½		88¼	66
Unilever	4867½	+52	6177½	4631
Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology				
AstraZeneca	13460	-48	14346	9667
Genus.	3055	+20	3055	1548
GlaxoSmithKline	1852	+34½	1901½	1264
Haleon	371½	-1	415¼	326½
Hikma.	1517	-16	2340	1505½
Ovoca Gold				
Oxford Biomedica	850	-5	913	232½
Real Estate Investment & Services				
Boot (Henry)	192	-26	237	171¼
Cardiff Property	2700#		2700	2540
CLS Holdings	60¼	-½	75	53½
Foxtons	53		67¾	50¾
Harworth Group	162	-½	189½	159½
Mountview Est.	9025		10200	8700
Panther Secs.	290		315	280
Rightmove	495¼	-12	823¾	493
Savills	1074	+2	1110	871
Wynnstay Props.	860		875	695
Real Estate Investment Trusts				
Big Yellow Group	1028	-16	1180	848
British Land	415½	-¼	420½	321¼
Capital & Counties	144	-1	161¼	113½
Derwent London	1951	+5	2096	1608
Grainger	194#	+4	228	177½
Great Portland Est.	370½	+3½	372	262
Hammerson	358½	+3¾	360¾	220½
Helical Bar	195¾	+1½	240	174
Land Securities	653½		656¾	499½
London & Stamford Prop	202¼	+1	204½	170½
Primary Health.	104¼#	-1¾	106	87½
SEGRO	765	+5	767	599
Town Centre	121½	+1	149	117
Unite Group	572½	-2½	879½	510
Value & Income	205#	+7	215	173
Workspace Group	421½#	-½	473½	362
Software & Computer Services				
Computacenter	3288		3368	2122
Intec Telecom				
Microgen	290	+10	344	255
Moneysupermarket	184½	-1¾	221½	180½
Pendragon	385½	+5½	558	296
RELX	2594	-98	4135	2589
Sage Group	955#	-40½	1348	944½
Triad Group	291		400	240
Support Services				
Ashtead Group	4725#	-387	5594	3659
Capita Group	384	-4	407½	175
DCC	4670	+8	5600	4350
Diploma	5340#	-65	5685	3624
Essentra	101¼	-3	126¼	89¾
Experian Group	2695#	-24	4088	2662
Ferguson.	18260#	+120	19470	11670
Hays	46	-½	88¼	45
Intertek Group	4454	-38	5385	4064
Johnson Service	141¼		159½	124
London Security	2850		3800	2600
Macfarlane Group	71	-1	120½	62¾
Mears Group.	369½	-2½	417½	311½
Michael Page	201¼	-3	341¼	193
Mitie Group.	168#	+½	171½	112
Norish.	23½		24	14
Paypoint	560	-15	853	438½
Rentokil Initial	459	-6½	480¾	309½
Robert Walters	125	-1	296	116
RS Group.	655½	-3½	667½	487¼
Serco Group	304¼	-1	306¾	150½
SIG	9½		18	8½
Smiths News.	67¼#	+¼	77½	47½
Speedy Hire.	25¼	+¼	32¼	18
SThree	191¼	+¼	278	137½
Travis Perkins	630	-18½	714	494
Trifast	77½	+½	87½	59
Vitec Group	12¼	+¼	125	11
Technology Hardware & Equipment				
BATM Advanced	15¾	+¼	19¾	13
Tobacco				
British Amer.Tob	4327#	-5	4421	2965
Imperial Brands	3024	-4	3312	2662
Travel & Leisure				
888 Holdings	24½	-1	73¾	21
Carnival	2190	+121	2406	1134
Celtic.	200		210	142½
Compass Group	2172#	-26	2843	2159
Domino's Pizza	183¼	-4	302¾	167¼
EasyJet.	473¼	-2½	587¾	427½
Entain.	619	-18½	1022	501¼
Flutter Entert.	12200	+25	23630	12025
Fuller Smith & Turner	690		738	508
Heavitree	220		280	200
InterContinental Htl	9783¾	+87	10055¾	5382¼
Intl Consolidated Airlines	409¾	-8¼	437	224½
Irish Continental Uts.	565	+5	575	380
Marston's	60½	+¾	69	33¼
Mitchells & Butlers	264	-1	291½	208½
National Express	24¾	+¾	73¾	21
Rank Group	89¼	-1¾	160½	78
Saga	500	+66	505	114¼
Wetherspoon (JD)	668½	-12	804	541
Whitbread	2736	-13	3274	2335
AIM				
Alumasc Group	237½		395	232
Arbuthnot Banking	872½	-7½	1100	837½
Boohoo	23¾	-1¼	29¼	10½
Camellia	4880		6050	4090
Churchill China	395	+2	710	324
CML Microsystems.	265		335	210
Colefax Group	1150	-15	1170	750
CPP Group	74¾		162	60
Cropper (James)	380		400	132½
Falkland Islands	245#		316¾	162½
Fevertree Drinks	860	-34	998	658
Filtronic	183	-2	196	82½
James Halstead	135	-2½	174½	133
Mothercare	1¾		4¼	1¾
Mpac Group	375	+2½	565	270
Naked Wine.	71½		93½	43
Nichols.	1010	+24	1465	930
Northamber	31#		34	26¼
Portmeirion.	99		189	94
Regal Petroleum	17		23½	14½
Rockhopper Exploratn	70	-1	87¾	33¼
Ten Alps	47½		73	46½
Titon Holdings	95		100	69
Volex.	445	-2	470	198¾
Young & Co Brewery A.	845	-3	992	714

The service is provided for general information only and is not intended to address individual requirements. Appropriate independent advice should be obtained before making investment decisions. Reasonable care will be taken in ensuring the accuracy of the information provided but it may include errors, omissions or inaccuracies.

Ex-dividend * Ex-rights a Ex-All c Ex-capitalisation † Shares suspended

Webfinancial Group

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Winter Sale

Reader Offer in partnership with **Yimbly.com**

SOOTHING EYE MASSAGER

Modern life often leaves eyes tired and sore, with prolonged screen use causing fatigue and headaches. This compact eye massager combines gentle air-pressure massage with soothing heat to relieve discomfort and improve circulation. Three programmes, each accompanied by tranquil nature sounds, promote relaxation and help ease tension. Soft padding and an adjustable headband provide comfort, while simple one-button controls and USB rechargeable cordless use make it easy to enjoy at home or on the move, offering a convenient and calming way to care for your eyes.

- ✓ Simple, one button control
- ✓ USB rechargeable
- ✓ Weight: 0.5 kg
- ✓ 1-year warranty

yimbly.com/Offer30 Quote **Offer30** Offer ends 5th February

UK Customer Service 0161 444 9879 | **Now Open 7 Days a Week**

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Trustpilot

Winter Sale

Reader Offer in partnership with Yimbly.com

STYLISH FABRIC PULL OUT SOFABED

The Lewiston Fabric Pull-Out Sofabed combines versatile functionality with soft, durable seating. Upholstered in plush, hard-wearing fabric, it comfortably seats two and converts easily into a double bed for overnight guests. A solid wooden frame provides long-lasting stability, while the classic rolled arm design adds a timeless touch to any room. Delivered and assembled into your room by a two-person team, the Lewiston is ready to enjoy immediately, offering a practical and stylish solution for modern living.

Choose from 10 colours:

- ✓ Pull out sofabed mechanism converts into double bed
- ✓ Soft, durable fabric upholstery
- ✓ Size: H83 x W160 x D87 cm

yimbly.com/Offer106 Quote **Offer106** Offer ends 31st January

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Winter Sale Reader Offer in partnership with **Yimbly.com**

2-IN-1 STATIONARY EXERCISE BIKE

> "What an amazing piece of kit. Easy to open, move and use. It feels stable, comfortable and is well built. I use mine everyday and my fitness is really improving. I love it."
>
> ★★★★★
> **Catie G**

Stay active safely from home with this practical 2-in-1 exercise bike. Designed to combine cardio with strength training, it offers a balanced workout that feels supportive, controlled and easy to manage. Pedalling engages the legs, while integrated resistance bands allow the upper body to stay active, helping improve overall strength and movement in a single session.

FULL BODY MOVEMENT

Built-in adjustable resistance bands allow you to work your arms, shoulders, chest, back and core as you cycle. This combination supports a more complete workout without the need for extra equipment, making exercise efficient and purposeful.

COMFORT COMES FIRST

An oversized cushioned seat and memory foam backrest help maintain comfort throughout your workout. The bike adjusts between upright and more relaxed positions, allowing you to sit taller to engage your core or recline slightly for a gentler ride. This flexibility helps exercise feel accessible and enjoyable.

SMOOTH AND QUIET RESISTANCE

Eight levels of magnetic resistance allow gradual control over effort, supporting steady progress over time. The magnetic system delivers a smooth, quiet ride, making it easy to exercise without disturbing others or your home environment.

CLEAR PROGRESS TRACKING

A large, easy-to-read digital display shows speed, distance and calories burned, helping you stay informed at a glance. The built-in heart rate monitor allows you to keep track of effort levels during each session.

EASY TO STORE

After use, the bike folds up neatly and wheels away for storage, keeping your space clear while remaining ready for daily activity.

Designed to support regular movement at home, this exercise bike helps maintain fitness, comfort and confidence through simple, consistent exercise.

- ✓ 2-in-1 stationary exercise bike combining cardio with strength training
- ✓ Perfect for all fitness levels
- ✓ Folds flat for easy storage
- ✓ Includes 2.5-inch thick cushioned seat and memory foam backrest
- ✓ Digital progress tracker: records and displays calories burned, distance, speed and more
- ✓ Some assembly required
- ✓ Dimensions: H129 x W134 x D59 cm

yimbly.com/Offer138 Quote **Offer138** Offer ends 5th February

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Racing

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BLOW FOR BORDES

Festival next as Kopek out of Irish Arkle

By **David Yates**

KOPEK DES BORDES will head straight to Cheltenham for the Singer Capital Markets Arkle Challenge Trophy after being ruled out of the Irish version at Leopardstown tomorrow.

Successful on his fencing debut at Navan in November, the Willie Mullins-trained six-year-old, forced to miss Leopardstown's Christmas fixture by a setback, had been due to clash with Gordon Elliott's Romeo Coolio in the Grade One Goffs Irish Arkle Novice Chase.

But the gelding's owner Charlie McCarthy revealed: "I got the phone call this morning – Willie rang me at 9.45am and said he'd decided not to run Kopek.

GOOD KOP: Kopek Des Bordes and Paul Townend win the Supreme Novices' Hurdle

"He said he's training well but he just doesn't think he's 100 per cent, and he didn't want to be taking on these horses unless he felt confident.

"I said, 'Look, Willie, it's your decision.' I never questioned it. I said, 'What's your Plan B?' He said, 'Straight to Cheltenham!'

We're broken hearted but we still have Kopek – it just didn't come at the right time for him and he's only a six-year-old.

"I have to be guided by Willie and what Willie says."

Also absent from Foxrock is Haiti Couleurs, who will swerve the Paddy Power Irish Gold Cup to have his Cheltenham Gold Cup tee-up in next Saturday's Grade Two Denman Chase at Newbury.

"There were too many negatives to going over," said the Welsh Grand National hero's trainer Rebecca Curtis.

Meanwhile, the Gordon Elliott-trained El Cairos was pushed out to 11-2 from 9-2 for the Supreme Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham after surviving a final-flight error to land yesterday's ThurlesRaces.ie Maiden Hurdle.

❒ TOMORROW'S Scilly Isles Novices' Chase card is set to go ahead as planned after Sandown passed an 8am inspection yesterday.

Buddy Holly set to rock and roll

By **The Scout**

TALENT: Lauren Young

BUDDY HOLLY (1.20, Nap) is fancied to be a hit in the tigerbet.co.uk Price Boosts Maiden Hurdle at Ffos Las.

The twice-raced gelding has stamina in his pedigree and he is sent to a track where trainer Nicky Henderson has a 37 per cent strike rate.

Well forward in the market on his debut for Seven Barrows at Newbury, where the stable's decent novices often appear, Buddy Holly finished third to Klimt Madrik.

That horse subsequently chased home No Drama This End in the Grade One Challow Hurdle and my selection has found a winnable contest here.

At Catterick, KAZAR FOREZ (4.23, nb) can be a hat-trick hero in the Racing Again 9th February Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle.

Revitalised by a 314-day break, he has gone off favourite for both his starts this season and has had little trouble collecting.

And WATER OF LEITH (8.30, trb) has shown his turn is near, catching the eye off bottom weight in Wolverhampton's Midnite A Next Generation Betting App Handicap.

Talented young rider Lauren Young has a 5lb claim to utilise on the sprinter, declared for a race tomorrow as well and now 7lb below his last winning mark.

CATTERICK RACINGTV

1.10 JUVENILE MAIDEN HURDLE 4YO
£5,446 (Class 4) 1m 7f 156yds (10 declared)

1 54 **BELAYA RIVER (29) (T)** Harry Derham 10-12 — Paul O'Brien 109
2 44P **BIG LOVE (8)** M & D Easterby 10-12 — J Hamilton 88
3 75 **GLENRIDDING (29)** Ewan Whillans 10-12 — C Bewley 105
4 **HELLION (F139)** D McCain 10-12 — B Hughes –
5 ● **SHAMSAT (F80) (T)** James Owen 10-12 — B J Powell –
6 LP **SOME BOY ME (34)** T Easterby 10-12 — T Midgley(3) 65
7 3 **SQUARE D'ALBONI (16)** D Skelton 10-12 — H Skelton★127
8 L **WHATSGOINGONMARVIN (34) (T)** M Bowen 10-12 — J Bowen 59
9 L **BLONDINA (29)** A Nicol 10-5 — J Thompson(5) 88
10 **PRETTYLADY (F239)** O Greenall & J Guerriero 10-5 — Craig Nichol –

HOOD: No. 3.

SP FORECAST: 10-11 Square D'alboni, 5 Shamsat, 6 Hellion, 13-2 Belaya River, 12 Glenridding, 20 Whatsgoingonmarvin, Prettylady, 25 Big Love, 50 Others.

2025: Turn And Finish 10-12, Paul O'Brien 2-9 Fav (Harry Derham), 8 ran.

1.40 RACING TV HANDICAP CHASE
£4,753 (4) 2m 3f 51yds (5)

1 P61P/P4 **DALYOTIN (61) (D)** R Menzies 10 11-8 — N Moscrop –
2 85F-8P2 **STARMAN (29) (F)** J E Foster 10 11-6 — T Midgley(3) 113
3 21L-P86 **AILT AN CHORRAIN (35)** P Neville 7 11-6 — B Hughes 109
4 2243-L3 **ZERO TOLERANCE (45) (T)** E Williams 9 11-4 — C Ring★116
5 65-5121 ● **ALWAYS A REASON (15)** R Menzies 7 11-2 — R Chapman 115

BLINKERS: No. 3 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 2, 3 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 5
HOOD: No. 2.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 1, 2.

SP FORECAST: 15-8 Always A Reason, 11-4 Starman, 3 Zero Tolerance, 7 Ailt An Chorrain, 8 Dalyotin.

2025: Valence D'Aumont 11-10-9, Danny McMenamin 3-1 (J Parkinson & S Smith), 7 ran.

THE SCOUT

1.10 Shamsat
1.40 Always A Reason
2.10 Wise Move
2.40 Stick With Me Sam
3.13 Fortunefavorsdbold
3.48 Piaff Bubbles
4.23 KAZAR FOREZ (nb)

2.10 RACEDAY READY APP HANDICAP HURDLE
£3,697 (5) 2m 3f 66yds (8)

1 71U-4FP **ACHNAMARA (F10) (C&D)** P Kirby 7 11-10 — I J Power 99
2 95-4P63 **BYRON HILL (29)** P Neville 9 11-8 — B Hughes 109
3 92-3235 **MAGGIES BOY (222)** J Candlish 7 11-8 — Sean Quinlan 109
4 0/45152 **AVALON BEACH (35) (F)** C Grant 7 11-7 — W Maggs(5) 111
5 P-P111P **DEVON SKIES (35)** P Kirby 7 11-6 — J Williamson(3) 106
6 1-357 **ABBEY SCOPE (28)** N Richards 6 11-5 — D McMenamin★113
7 33P-83L **EXPRESS RUN (148)** Justin Landy 7 11-5 — C Bewley 105
8 594-452 ● **WISE MOVE (35)** G Bewley 8 11-2 — J Bewley 106

BLINKERS: No. 2 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 3, 7 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 3
HOOD: No. 8.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 2, 5, 8.

SP FORECAST: 3 Wise Move, 7-2 Avalon Beach, 5 Devon Skies, 6 Abbey Scope, 13-2 Byron Hill, 8 Express Run, Maggies Boy, 25 Achnamara.

2.40 NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE
£4,225 (5) 1m 7f 145yds (5)

1 2342/LP **JIAIR MADRIK (17)** D McCain 7 12-0 — T Gillard –
2 22U-L11 ● **STICK WITH ME SAM (30) (D)** T R Gretton 7 11-12 — B Hughes 104
3 L-L000L **BID UP (35)** B Cawley (IRE) 5 11-3 — Mr P Cawley(7) 80
4 3-5L024 **FORCETORECKONWITH (39)** O Greenall & J Guerriero 7 11-1 — Craig Nichol★105
5 1-L8LL0 **ELUSIVE KNIGHT (50) (T)** E Williams 6 10-11 — C Ring –

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 CHEEK PIECES: No. 5 HOOD: No. 2.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 2.

SP FORECAST: 4-11 Stick With Me Sam, 4 Forcetoreckonwith, 14 Bid Up, 16 Jiair Madrik, 20 Elusive Knight.

2025: We Got Your Back 7-10-13, Adam Wedge 9-4 Fav (L Morgan), 7 ran.

3.13 RACINGTV.COM HANDICAP CHASE
£4,225 (5) 3m 1f 54yds (8)

1 F6P-647 **BUSHYPARK (28) (C)** P Kirby 12 12-0 — J Williamson(3) 101
2 L4-5233 **COURT AT SLIP (15)** T Easterby 9 11-13 — Mr William Easterby(5) 103
3 23L3-23 ● **FORTUNEFAVORSDBOLD (30) (T)** Christian Williams 8 11-9 — B Hughes★105
4 543-443 **BO CRUZ (35)** D McCain 7 11-7 — T Gillard 104
5 5-P41PP **AZOF DES MOTTES (28)** G Bewley 9 10-11 — J Bewley 103
6 5LP6UP **COMMUNITY REBEL (42)** M Hammond 10 10-4 — J Thompson(5) 91
7 P-5L456 **WEST LAWN (29)** J Walton 10 10-2 — C Maggs(5) 95
8 P52-L4P **DYSANIA (35) (T)** M Bowen 11 10-2 — B J Powell 102

BLINKERS: No. 2 TONGUE STRAP: No. 5 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 3, 6, 8.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 5, 1, 6, 2, 8, 3, 7.

SP FORECAST: 11-4 Fortunefavorsdbold, 3 Bo Cruz, 10-3 Court At Slip, 6 Bushypark, 10 West Lawn, Azof Des Mottes, 14 Dysania, 33 Community Rebel.

3.48 BET AT RACING TV HANDICAP HURDLE
£4,753 (4) 3m 1f 71yds (9)

1 12L/P-PP **BAPTISM OF FIRE (28)** J K Hunter 11 12-0 — E Austin(5) –
2 3-75515 **BORN IN THE WEST (14) (C&D)** S England 7 11-11 — J England 109
3 12-3IL6 **RIOJA ALTA (65)** M Hammond 6 11-10 — B Hughes 107
4 344-3P5 ● **PIAFF BUBBLES (17)** R Menzies 10 11-8 — N Moscrop 108
5 567-LP2 **COLONIAL EMPIRE (50) (T)** T Vaughan 9 11-8 — Mr E Vaughan(7) 110
6 448-622 **GUERNESEY (51)** Mrs J Stephen 10 11-6 — J Thompson(5) ★112
7 F-L9763 **ASA (8)** P Kirby 7 11-4 — J Williamson(3) 111
8 2U/U1U-4 **POETRY MAN (70)** G Bewley 8 11-2 — J Bewley 106
9 467P32 **REBEL INTENTIONS (29)** Annabelle Sowray 9 10-7 — Craig Nichol 108

BLINKERS: No. 3 VISOR: Nos. 4, 5 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 4, 9 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 1, 5, 4, 9, 3.

SP FORECAST: 7-2 Asa, 4 Guernesey, Rebel Intentions, 5 Colonial Empire, 6 Born In The West, 8 Poetry Man, 12 Piaff Bubbles, 16 Rioja Alta, 150 Baptism Of Fire.

4.23 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE
£4,040 (5) 1m 7f 156yds (5)

1 429L-11 ● **KAZAR FOREZ (5) (F)** M Hammond 6 12-7(7ex) — J Thompson(6) 103
2 2L4342 **VOODOO ANGEL (47)** D McCain 7 11-8 — C Maggs(3) 99
3 54L-F5L **HERITIER (35) (D)** Lizzie Quinlan 9 11-8 — W Maggs 88
4 34 **PLAYFUL FOX (31)** D Skelton 4 11-1 — T Durrell(3) ★106
5 5-5LL5 **BERRY EDGE (67)** D Thompson 8 10-10 — Jack Power 96

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 4, 5 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 5.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 3.

SP FORECAST: 4-6 Kazar Forez, 3 Playful Fox, 9-2 Voodoo Angel, 20 Berry Edge, 25 Heritier.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Soft. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Brian Hughes 20% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** T Easterby 12% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.10 Glenridding (hood), 1.40 Starman (hood, tongue strap), 2.10 Express Run (wind surgery), 2.40 Elusive Knight (cheek pieces), 4.23 Berry Edge (cheek pieces, tongue strap). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 2.10 Devon Skies(hcp hdl). 3.48 Asa(hcp hdl). **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Bid Up** (2.40) Ireland; **Whatsgoingonmarvin** (1.10) & **Dysania** (3.13) 295 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 1.10 **Hellion** from B Meehan to D McCain, **Prettylady** from F Chappet in France to O Greenall & J Guerriero, **Shamsat** from H Pantall in France to James Owen.

RESULTS

AYR: Soft

1.13—APPLES JANE (S Bowen, 3-1) 1; Klassy Pearl (11-2) 2; Society Soldier (12-1) 3. 8 ran. 5¼l, 5¼l. (G Elliott (IRE) ; 11-8 fav Coolkatie). Tote: £4.00; pl £1.20, £1.70, £2.60. exacta: £19.00. trifecta: £93.20. CSF: £21.00. Non-runner: Changemyluck.

1.43—DIAMOND GEEZER (S Bowen, 9-4 fav) 1; Eloi Du Puy (11-1) 2; El Jefe (12-1) 3. H'cap 11 ran. 6l, ¼l. (O Murphy). Tote: £3.25; pl £1.30, £3.30, £2.70. exacta: £31.70. tricast: £260.99. trifecta: £242.00. CSF: £29.79. Non-runners: Fostered Phil, Saracen Beau.

2.13—WENDIGO (G Sheehan, 1-5 fav) 1; Maximilian (4-1 2nd fav) 2; 3 ran. 22l. (J Snowden). Tote: £1.20; exacta: £1.30. trifecta: £1.80. CSF: £1.52.

2.43—STEDE BONNET (S Bowen, 8-11 fav) 1; Irandando Has (12-1) 2; Irish Champ (6-1) 3. 8 ran. 4¼l, 8l. (G Elliott (IRE)). Tote: £1.73; pl £1.02, £3.20, £1.80. exacta: £12.90. trifecta: £49.40. CSF: £13.06. Non-runner: Le Beau Madrik.

3.13—SHOESHINE BOY (Craig Nichol, 11-1) 1; Felicie Du Maquis (12-1) 2; Grand Voyage (40-1) 3. H'cap 13 ran. hd, 1¼l. (D Whillans; 10-3 fav Buzz Iceclear). Tote: £12.00; pl £3.10, £3.90, £12.00. exacta: £129.20. tricast: £5053.82. trifecta: £3681.90. CSF: £140.37.

3.43—TOMMY COMBATS (C Bewley, 3-1 jt fav) 1; Great Pepper (17-2) 2; Disguisedlimit (10-1) 3. H'cap 11 ran. 3¾l, 1¾l. (M Todhunter; 3-1 jtfav Wotter Trotter). Tote: £4.00; pl £1.40, £3.00, £3.50. exacta: £36.10. tricast: £234.83. trifecta: £268.00. CSF: £30.38.

4.13—THE SKECHER (H Skelton, 8-11 fav) 1; Finisk Pride (7-1) 2; Katagat (9-2 2nd fav) 3. 7 ran. 5¼l, 8l. (D Skelton). Tote: £1.73; pl £1.30, £2.90. exacta: £7.10. trifecta: £22.10. CSF: £6.90. Non-runners: Bay Runner, L'appel Du Large.

Placepot: £269.60
(Race 1) 2, 6, 9; (2) 7, 3, 11; (3) 1; (4) 5, 2, 7; (5) 10, 1, 12; (6) 10, 3, 5;
Quadpot: £50.60

LINGFIELD: Standard

1.20—THECOFFEEPODDOTCO (J Leavy, 9-4 fav) 1; Hello Luna (18-1) 2; Honour Your Dreams (9-1) 3. H'cap 8 ran. 1¼l, 1¼l. (R Hannon). Tote: £3.25; pl £1.50, £4.20, £2.70. exacta: £44.70. tricast: £313.66. trifecta: £299.70. CSF: £45.98. Non-runners: Alafdhal, Son Of Astar.

1.50—SPACE INVASION (J Leavy, 4-1) 1; Luminare (11-1) 2; Sovereign Wealth (2-1 fav) 3. H'cap 6 ran. 1¾l, ½l. (R Hannon). Tote: £6.50; pl £2.30, £4.10. exacta: £52.30. trifecta: £128.80. CSF: £43.72.

2.20—POKE THE BEAR (T Heard, 5-4 fav) 1; Volendam (5-2 2nd fav) 2; Unknown Journey (12-1) 3. H'cap 9 ran. 2¼l, 2¼l. (Hayley Burton). Tote: £2.25; pl £1.10, £1.20, £3.10. exacta: £6.10. tricast: £24.71. trifecta: £32.70. CSF: £4.51. Non-runner: Celtic John.

2.50—ROYAL JET (W Carson, 15-8 fav) 1; Stacey Racey (4-1 2nd fav) 2; Tilsworth Max (15-2) 3. 9 ran. 2¼l, 1¾l. (A Carroll). Tote: £2.88; pl £1.20, £1.50, £2.30. exacta: £12.90. trifecta: £58.40. CSF: £9.42.

3.20—KING'S HAND (L Morris, 9-4 jt fav) 1; Tommy's Promise (9-4 jt fav) 2; Bowndter (17-2) 3. H'cap 9 ran. 1¼l, 1¼l. (Sir M Prescott). Tote: £3.50; pl £1.60, £1.20, £2.10. exacta: £10.10. tricast: £34.86. trifecta: £37.70. CSF: £7.11.

3.50—BUCKLOW HILL (Jason Watson, 9-4 2nd fav) 1; Silent Strike (11-10 fav) 2; Sakura Spirit (5-1) 3. 8 ran. 1¼l, hd. (C Hills). Tote: £3.25; pl £1.20, £1.10, £1.60. exacta: £7.20. trifecta: £24.60. CSF: £5.37.

4.20—INVINCIBLE SPEED (P Bradley, 5-2 jt 2nd fav) 1; Mart (5-2 jt 2nd fav) 2; Porfin (5-1) 3. H'cap 6 ran. nk, 1l. (M Loughnane; 85-40 fav All Too Beautiful). Tote: £5.00; pl £2.00, £1.60. exacta: £10.10. trifecta: £30.00. CSF: £9.35.

Placepot: £18.00
(Race 1) 1, 4, 3; (2) 1, 4; (3) 1, 2, 7; (4) 1, 6, 7; (5) 9, 8, 7; (6) 1, 3, 5;
Quadpot: £1.40

WINCANTON: Heavy

1.33—COOLANNA (C Gethings, evens fav) 1; Strong Run (6-5 2nd fav) 2; Katie's Melody (7-1) 3. 11 ran. 1¼l, 6½l. (K Bailey & M Nicholls). Tote: £2.10; pl £1.10, £1.10, £1.20. exacta: £3.10. trifecta: £7.80. CSF: £2.80.

2.03—MUTLEY CREW (H Kimber, 5-2 fav) 1; Atreides (11-4 2nd fav) 2; Windsurfer (9-1) 3. H'cap 7 ran. 7l, 12l. (R Walford). Tote: £3.50; pl £1.70, £1.70. exacta: £9.00. trifecta: £52.50. CSF: £10.39.

2.33—POURQUOI PAS PAPA (H Cobden, 5-4 fav) 1; Aguellid (11-4) 2; Galashiels (14-1) 3; Mossy Fen Coolio (2-1) 4. 17 ran. 7l, 4¼l, 1¼l. (P Nicholls). Tote: £2.40; pl £1.10, £1.30, £2.30. exacta: £7.30. trifecta: £43.30. CSF: £6.35. Non-runner: Marhaba Million.

3.03—LOCAL DERBY (F Gordon, 4-1 2nd fav) 1; Watchoutitscookie (11-1) 2; Ourbrowneyedgirl (11-1) 3. H'cap 11 ran. 2l, 5l. (C Gordon; 11-4 fav Bradman). Tote: £5.00; pl £1.90, £2.90, £3.60. exacta: £55.30. tricast: £466.55. trifecta: £472.10. CSF: £50.56. Non-runners: Broomfield Gale, Stopherandgo, Whatmakes Honey B.

3.33—JUPITER ALLEN (L Williams, 5-2 jt fav) 1; Largy Poet (5-2 jt fav) 2; My Silver Lining (7-2) 3. H'cap 6 ran. 11l, 14l. (Chester Williams). Tote: £3.50; pl £1.50, £1.60. exacta: £10.10. trifecta: £29.80. CSF: £9.71.

4.03—PYLEIGH COURT (Miss E Herbison, 11-2) 1; Thunder Rock (4-1) 2; Illico De Cotte (6-4 fav) 3. 6 ran. ¾l, 2½l. (R Pudd). Tote: £6.50; pl £2.40, £2.40. exacta: £26.60. trifecta: £59.20. CSF: £27.82.

4.33—WESTERN CHARM (B Godfrey, 6-1) 1; Secret Des Lune (15-8 2nd fav) 2; That Is Blue (5-1) 3. 10 ran. 8l, ½l. (A Honeyball; 13-8 fav Midnight Doyen). Tote: £7.00; pl £1.70, £1.20, £1.40. exacta: £20.30. trifecta: £80.10. CSF: £18.31.

Placepot: £43.90
(Race 1) 1, 2, 6; (2) 7, 4; (3) 18, 1, 6; (4) 7, 12, 4; (5) 4, 1; (6) 4, 1;
Quadpot: £26.50

CHELMSFORD CITY: Standard

5.00—MASTER DANDY (H Crouch, 11-8 fav) 1; Forever Noah (5-1) 2; Second Collection (16-1) 3. H'cap 8 ran. hd, 1¼l. (Michael Keady). Tote: £2.38; pl £1.10, £1.90, £3.40. exacta: £10.20. tricast: £78.66. trifecta: £61.90. CSF: £9.17. Non-runners: Desdemona, He's An Angel, Snow Boots, The Defiant.

5.30—SECRET HISTORY (H Crouch, 2-9 fav) 1; Welcome Retreat (13-2) 2; Seven Fires (28-1) 3. 8 ran. ½l, 1¼l. (E Walker). Tote: £1.23; pl £1.02, £1.80, £4.80. exacta: £4.10. trifecta: £31.20. CSF: £3.84.

6.00—UP THE MONK (Mason Paetel, 8-1) 1; Tommytwohoots (14-1) 2; Bishop's Glory (5-1) 3. 7 ran. 1¾l, ns. (M Appleby; 3-1 jtfav Dubai Magic, 3-1 jtfav Lion Ring). Tote: £9.00; pl £4.10, £5.40. exacta: £83.70. trifecta: £428.90. CSF: £106.77.

6.30—KNEBWORTH (F Marsh, 3-1 fav) 1; Twilight Fun (9-2) 2; Aberama Gold (15-2) 3. H'cap 9 ran. 1¼l, hd. (R Hughes). Tote: £4.00; pl £1.60, £2.10, £2.00. exacta: £23.10. tricast: £93.85. trifecta: £166.40. CSF: £17.05.

7.00—MY BOY HARRY (F Marsh, 11-4 2nd fav) 1; Charlatan (10-1) 2; Bullington Bry (9-4 fav) 3. H'cap 10 ran. ¾l, 1l. (J & S Best). Tote: £3.75; pl £1.40, £2.70, £1.30. exacta: £30.80. tricast: £74.41. trifecta: £122.50. CSF: £31.98.

7.30—ROGUE JUSTICE (H Crouch, 9-4 2nd fav) 1; Hiconic (8-1) 2; Arenas Del Tiempo (25-1) 3. H'cap 8 ran. 1¾l, 1¼l. (Jack Jones; 11-10 fav Taranjerine). Tote: £3.25; pl £1.20, £1.90, £3.90. exacta: £21.60. tricast: £355.03. trifecta: £146.30. CSF: £20.90.

8.00—LEXINGTON JET (C J Whiteley, 5-1) 1; Straight A (7-1) 2; H Key Lails (5-1) 3. H'cap 7 ran. 3¾l, ¾l. (D Loughnane; 10-3 fav Mandana). Tote: £6.00; pl £2.70, £2.90. exacta: £36.30. trifecta: £115.30. CSF: £38.34.

Jackpot: £2,981.60
Placepot: £120.40
(Race 1) 2, 6, 11; (2) 5, 8, 1; (3) 7, 5; (4) 5, 7, 4; (5) 1, 9, 5; (6) 3, 8, 7;
Quadpot: £90.30

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FFOS LAS (Inspection 7.30am) SSR

THE SCOUT

1.20 BUDDY HOLLY (nap) 3.25 Benignitas
1.50 Titanium Ring 4.00 Reinado
2.20 Dangerous Touch 4.35 Gwennie May Jem
2.50 Ker D'oudairies

1.20 TIGERBET.CO.UK PRICE BOOSTS MAIDEN HURDLE
£5,446 (Class 4) 2m 4f (8 declared)

1 73 ● **BUDDY HOLLY (62) (F)** N Henderson 5 11-6 ..... N De Boinville ★117
2 5 **ERCALL FOX (71)** Kerry Lee 5 11-6 ..... C O'Farrell 102
3 44/423-4 **JACCOURS (68)** O Murphy 7 11-6 ..... S Bowen 104
4 1/2-36 **KARMA POLICE (22)** Harry Derham 6 11-6 ..... B Sutton(5) 99
5 P-311 **KENZO DES BRUYERES (82)** M Bowen 6 11-6 ..... S Fenelon(5) –
6 8/L5- **SEA VICTORY (436)** Miss J Davis 6 11-6 ..... K Woods –
7 5/1-3 **TOMMY PICKLES (93)** J Snowden 6 11-6 ..... G Sheehan 108
8 **WINGS OF ARION** M Bowen 6 11-6 ..... R Patrick –

TONGUE STRAP: No. 7 CHEEK PIECES: No. 5.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 5.

SP FORECAST: 11-8 Buddy Holly, 7-2 Kenzo Des Bruyeres, 4 Jaccours, 6 Tommy Pickles, 12 Wings Of Arion, 16 Karma Police, 25 Ercall Fox, 66 Sea Victory.

1.50 TIGERBET.CO.UK BEST ODDS GUARANTEED NOVICES' HURDLE
£5,446 (4) 1m 7f 182yds (9)

1 6-P1F **BLOWERS (22)** N Hawke 6 11-9 ..... Miss E Herbison(7) 119
2 5L-9 **COMMANDER TEDDY (22)** Katy Price 6 11-2 ..... Shane Quinlan(3) 27
3 44-3 **EMERALD BREEZE (22)** Dominic Elsworth 6 11-2 ..... R T Dunne 100
4 P5-3P14 **ROI DU ROUME (18)** M Bowen 6 11-2 ..... S Bowen –
5 672-35 **THE HAWKSTONIAN (54)** B Pauling 6 11-2 ..... B R Jones 114
6 2F ● **TITANIUM RING (42)** H Daly 5 11-2 ..... S Twiston-Davies –
7 4-48 **TRADE WAR (22)** E Williams 6 11-2 ..... G Sheehan 114
8 53-152F **TURENNE (53) (D)** D Pipe 4 10-10 ..... J Tudor ★136
9 4/L- **PARADISE PARK (356)** T Faulkner 8 10-9 ..... C Deutsch 54
10 F2 **WISPIT TWOB (68)** M Keighley 4 10-2 ..... Doubtful 120

TONGUE STRAP: No. 5.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 1, 8.

SP FORECAST: 6-5 Turenne, 7-2 Titanium Ring, 11-2 Blowers, 10 The Hawkstonian, 11 Emerald Breeze, 12 Roi Du Roume, 14 Trade War, 100 Paradise Park, 250 Others.

2.20 TIGERBET.CO.UK FAST SIGN UP NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE
£4,700 (4) 2m 7f 177yds (8)

1 413-453 ● **DANGEROUS TOUCH (28)** O Murphy 7 12-0 ..... S Bowen 107
2 9122P7/ **FLEMENSTIDE (1084)** T Faulkner 11 11-12 ..... J Best –
3 LF3-634 **ASTRONOMIC VIEW (22)** Mrs S Gardner 9 11-12 ..... Lucy Gardner ★116
4 546-U **DYNO DAVE (31)** N Henderson 8 11-12 ..... F Gordon –
5 4-222L6 **FOLLOWANGO (14)** E Williams 8 11-9 ..... Isabel Williams 111
6 2PLL-43 **MOONLIT POTTER (41)** Dr R Newland & J Insole 8 11-8 ..... L Scott(3) 108
7 U/5P5-12 **GIRLS BEST FRIEND (57)** V Williams 7 11-0 ..... C Deutsch 109
8 13PP22 **ILLOGICAL LOGIC (18)** Christian Williams 8 10-11 ..... J Tudor 110

CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 3, 6.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 3, 1, 2, 5, 7, 6.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Girls Best Friend, 4 Illogical Logic, 11-2 Dangerous Touch, 6 Followango, 13-2 Astronomic View, 8 Dyno Dave, 10 Moonlit Potter, 33 Flemenstide.

2.50 TIGERBET.CO.UK EXTRA PLACES PAID HANDICAP HURDLE
£3,248 (5) 2m 7f 191yds (11)

1 L/764-L6 **JOHNNY BOY (41)** V Williams 7 12-0 ..... C Deutsch 96
2 97-252 **PIPAS LESCRIBAA (22)** H Dickin 7 12-0 ..... Tabitha Worsley(3) 97
3 4341-1L **SPARKLING DUKE (56) (C)** K Woollacott 7 11-13 ..... B R Jones 96
4 333-053 **KLIC BOUM (51)** E Williams 6 11-12 ..... Miss E Williams(7) ★103
5 PP/441-L **HOT ROD LINCOLN (48)** Nick Scholfield 10 11-12 ..... K Woods 69
6 U5-83PL **STELLAR STREAM (22)** K Woollacott 9 11-8 ..... Mr J Newman(5) –
7 P54-412 **GLENGOLLY (30)** Billy Aprahamian 7 11-5 ..... G Sheehan 99
8 322F13 **LADY HENRIETTA (22)** B Pauling 6 11-1 ..... S Bowen 98
9 55P05 ● **KER D'OUDAIRIES (82)** Christian Williams 6 10-10 ..... J Tudor 94
10 P/289P-L **WILLIAM PHILO (19)** B Lund 9 10-3 ..... H Kimber 46
11 0L00P-3 **JUNIOR DES MOTTES (253)** Nick Scholfield 7 10-2 ..... H Reed 92

TONGUE STRAP: No. 7 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 5, 7, 10.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 7, 5, 8, 3, 6, 10.

SP FORECAST: 7-2 Glengolly, 9-2 Pipas Lescribaa, 11-2 Lady Henrietta, 13-2 Stellar Stream, 8 Klic Boum, 10 Junior Des Mottes, Hot Rod Lincoln, 12 Sparkling Duke, Johnny Boy, 16 Others.

3.25 TIGERBET.CO.UK MARES' HANDICAP CHASE
£3,248 (5) 2m 3f 83yds (9)

1 43P-312 **SEASMOKE (47)** Billy Aprahamian 8 12-0 ..... G Sheehan 97
2 1/P33-6 ● **BENIGNITAS (21)** Gordon Treacy 9 11-13 ..... R Corcoran(7) –
3 3F52-FL **SOMETHINGTOSOMEONE (48)** Ben Clarke 7 11-11 ..... S Twiston-Davies 74
4 2264-LL **O'GRADY'S HILL (22)** S-J Davies 7 11-6 ..... J Best 52
5 342213 **STAMINA CHOPE (33) (T)** Dave Roberts 10 11-3 ..... Lee Edwards –
6 34L-645 **FAY CE QUE VOUDRAS (18)** Kerry Lee 10 10-13 ..... C O'Farrell 102
7 5975LU **LYNSEY LARUE (18)** E Williams 7 10-11 ..... B R Jones 91
8 7P3P-33 **LADY HARRIETT (40)** M Bowen 7 10-8 ..... S Bowen –
9 855483 **SHESUPINCOURT (10)** R Potter 9 10-6 ..... F Mitchell(3) ★103

BLINKERS: No. 8 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 3, 9 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 4, 9.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 2, 6, 9, 5.

SP FORECAST: 2 Seasmoke, 4 Lady Harriett, 5 Somethingtosomeone, 6 Stamina Chope, 8 Fay Ce Que Voudras, Shesupincourt, 16 Lynsey Larue, 25 O'Grady's Hill, 33 Benignitas.

4.00 DUNRAVEN WINDOWS HANDICAP HURDLE
£4,066 (4) 1m 7f 182yds (8)

1 2/322-L6 **SHADE OF WINTER (47)** E Williams 6 12-1 ..... B R Jones 110
2 6/124-2P **CAST'S TASHA (19) (C)** Ben Clarke 9 12-1 ..... T McCain-Mitchell(5) 112
3 12-134 **THERE RUNS MARY (22) (C&D)** O Murphy 6 11-12 ..... S Bowen 109
4 422-74L **ZAMBEZI FIX (34) (D)** B J Llewellyn 11 11-11 ..... Sean Houlihan 114
5 656F11 ● **REINADO (70) (D)** N Mulholland 6 11-11 ..... C O'Farrell 113
6 L-PP4P4 **FACE D'MUSIC (14)** Katy Price 7 11-5 ..... Shane Quinlan(3) 111
7 5-P0721 **EL GAVILAN (22) (C&D)** C Boultbee-Brooks 5 11-3 ..... R Patrick 113
8 43779L **GAVIN (22) (C&D)** M Bowen 8 10-4 ..... S Fenelon(5) ★116

BLINKERS: No. 6 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 7, 8 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 4, 7 HOOD: No. 8.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 2, 7, 5, 3, 4.

SP FORECAST: 7-4 Reinado, 2 El Gavilan, 11-2 There Runs Mary, 8 Shade Of Winter, 14 Cast's Tasha, Gavin, 25 Face d'Music, Zambezi Fix.

4.35 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP CHASE
£3,248 (5) 2m (7)

1 2P-PL6P **LUCKY LUGGER (15) (D)** M Sheppard 9 12-0 ..... T McCain-Mitchell 83
2 L31-244 **BOBBI'S BEAUTY (30) (D)** M Keighley 8 11-12 ..... F Keighley(3) 105
3 13L5P1 ● **GWENNIE MAY JEM (11) (D)** O Murphy 6 11-11(7ex) ..... L Saunders(3) ★106
4 FPP-026 **MUMBLES (22)** E Williams 8 11-8 ..... O Radford(10) –
5 8L6P-3P **HAWK STONE (14)** H Dickin 7 11-6 ..... Beau Morgan –
6 384-43L **LEECH (22)** E Williams 7 11-0 ..... J Turner –
7 L2-2521 **EL ROJO GRANDE (14)** Katy Price 9 10-7 ..... Shane Quinlan 101

VISOR: No. 5 TONGUE STRAP: No. 1 CHEEK PIECES: No. 1.
SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 2, 7, 3, 5, 6, 1, 4.

SP FORECAST: 4-6 Gwennie May Jem, 4 El Rojo Grande, 10 Mumbles, Leech, 12 Bobbi's Beauty, 20 Hawk Stone, Lucky Lugger.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Soft, heavy in places. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Sean Bowen 22% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** E Williams 10% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.20 Kenzo Des Bruyeres (cheek pieces), Tommy Pickles (wind surgery), 1.50 The Hawkstonian (tongue strap), 2.20 Dangerous Touch (cheek pieces), 3.25 O'Grady's Hill (cheek pieces), 4.35 Hawk Stone (visor), Lucky Lugger (cheek pieces, tongue strap). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 1.50 Turenne. 2.20 Dangerous Touch(hcp ch), Girls Best Friend(hcp ch). 2.50 Sparkling Duke(hcp hdl).

GOSSIP FROM THE GALLOPS

Midlands:
D'ALBONI
(1.10 Catterick)
Lambourn:
BUDDY HOLLY
(1.20 Ffos Las)

North:
BRAZILIAN ROSE
(2.32 Southwell)
Newmarket:
CARDINAL POINT
(5.00 Wolverhampton)

VITAL STATISTICS

IN-FORM TRAINERS (last 10 days) H Daly 83% (1 wins and 4 places from 6 runners), N Hawke 80% (2/2/5), Sir M Prescott 75% (3/0/4), J & S Birkett 67% (2/2/6), K R Burke 67% (1/5/9), J Snowden 62% (2/3/8), J Tate 60% (2/4/10), S C Williams 57% (1/3/7), O Murphy 53% (9/9/34), G Boughey 50% (3/1/8), J Camacho 50% (3/2/10), J Goldie 50% (2/4/12), M Bell 50% (1/1/4).
IN-FORM JOCKEYS Mr Edward Vaughan 67% (2 wins and 2 places from 6 runners), Ethan Tindall 60% (2/1/5), James Bowen 59% (2/11/22), Dylan Hogan 57% (4/4/14), Robert Havlin 55% (3/3/11), Ben Sutton 50% (2/0/4), Isabel Williams 50% (1/2/6), Nico De Boinville 50% (2/2/8), Rob Hornby 50% (2/1/6), Rowan Scott 50% (1/5/12), Sean Levey 50% (4/6/20).

SOUTHWELL SKYSPORTSRACING

THE SCOUT

1.02 Arlo's Girl 3.03 Down To The Kid
1.32 Thequietman 3.38 Trojan Soldier
2.02 Northern Attitude 4.10 Velvet Red
2.32 Federal Envoy

1.02 MIDNITE RESTRICTED NOVICE STAKES
£4,320 (Class 5) 4f 214yds (6 runners)

1 (2) 1- ● **ARLO'S GIRL (171) (D,F)** J Parr 3 9-7 ..... D Keenan ★80
2 (1) **BLUE DEVERON** J Tate 3 9-7 ..... P J McDonald –
3 (5) 22- **VON TROTTER (42) (F)** M & D Easterby 3 9-3 ..... Doubtful 79
4 (6) 2622-23 **FILLY FODEN (6) (T)** B Millman 3 9-0 ..... K O'Neill 76
5 (7) 7-6 **SIRHANA (17)** R Fahey 3 9-0 ..... W Fentiman(5) 65
6 (4) 4 **PURE PASSION (28)** S C Williams 3 8-12 ..... J Dace(5) 64
7 (3) **SKIP TO VICTORY** D Cunha 3 8-12 ..... E Greatrex –

SP FORECAST: 11-8 Arlo's Girl, 11-4 Filly Foden, 6 Pure Passion, 8 Sirhana, 10 Blue Deveron, Skip To Victory.

1.32 BETMGM.CO.UK HANDICAP
£3,716 (5) 1m 13yds (11)

1 (10) 077L8-L **QAZAQ (29) (C&D) (T)** I Jardine 5 9-9 ..... D E Hogan 82
2 (4) 1/L1534- **SELECTION (32) (D)** I Furtado 4 9-9 ..... B McHugh 84
3 (6) 523531- **HALE END (43) (C&D)** M Dods 6 9-8 ..... S B Kirrane 82
4 (3) 81121-1 **TONAL (28) (C&D)** I Williams 6 9-8 ..... R Kavanagh(5) 82
5 (7) 737106- **BEAUTY BY MY SIDE (31) (D)** J Parr 4 9-7 ... D Muscutt 84
6 (9) 53239-2 **FROSTMAGIC (23) (C,F)** I Mohammed 4 9-7 .. Mason Paetel(5) 83
7 (1) 2502/3-5 ● **THEQUIETMAN (18)** D O'Meara 5 9-6 ..... D Nolan 81
8 (8) 841L-66 **RENESMEE (9) (D)** Michael Keady 6 9-6 ..... D Keenan 83
9 (2) 454/6- **CY TWOMBLY (33)** J Mackie 4 9-6 ..... R Scott 69
10 (11) 18074-5 **PACKETOFBISCUITS (26)** J Mackie 4 9-2 .. P J McDonald 85
11 (5) 112632- **KING OF YORK (274) (C)** S Dixon 7 8-12 ..... K O'Neill ★86

SP FORECAST: 11-4 Tonal, 10-3 Frostmagic, 5 Hale End, 6 King Of York, 8 Selection, 14 Thequietman, Beauty By My Side, Packetofbiscuits, 20 Others.

2.02 MIDNITE: BUILT FOR 2026 HANDICAP
£3,140 (6) 6f 16yds (12)

1 (11) L605/11 **BETTIES BAY (6) (D)** James Owen 5 9-12(5ex) Mason Paetel(5) 72
2 (5) 6811L-2 **TWILIGHT MADNESS (8) (C,D)** S Hodgson 8 9-9 .. A Rawlinson 74
3 (8) 6238-41 **GOOD EARTH (17) (C&D)** M Herrington 9 9-8 .. C Planas(3) 75
4 (3) 6/L-5 **CHARGING BULL (18)** A Balding 4 9-7 ..... P J McDonald 65
5 (9) L8564-8 **CAMERA SHY (24) (D)** M Dods 4 9-7 ..... D Muscutt 74
6 (7) 82222-2 **CLOVER TIME (17)** M Appleby 4 9-6 ..... R Havlin ★77
7 (6) 56392-5 **MINNESOTA LAD (17) (D)** I Furtado 6 9-5 ..... D Nolan 74
8 (4) 545423- ● **NORTHERN ATTITUDE (113)** Joey Ramsden 4 9-4 C Rodriguez 73
9 (10) 76549-9 **SWISS ACE (26)** R Carr 8 9-3 ..... B Garritty 76
10 (1) 22694-7 **ATOMIC MASS (19) (D)** M & D Easterby 4 9-0 .. Joanna Mason 70
11 (12) 5132-33 **PROFIT STREET (8) (D)** James Owen 5 9-0 .... D Keenan 74
12 (2) 7-2LL62 **TOMMYTWOHOOTS (1) (D)** S A Harris 8 8-4 Laura Coughlan(3) 75

SP FORECAST: 4 Betties Bay, 9-2 Clover Time, 5 Profit Street, 6 Good Earth, 8 Northern Attitude, Twilight Madness, 12 Charging Bull, Camera Shy, 14 Others.

2.32 BETMGM SAFER GAMBLING HANDICAP
£3,659 (5) 7f 14yds (12)

1 (12) 6186-27 **HOW IMPRESSIVE (16) (C&D)** H Palmer 7 9-9 .. E Greatrex 83
2 (11) 331305- **BLAZING SON (32) (C,D)** B Smart 8 9-9 T Kiely-Marshall(5) 85
3 (5) 3946-11 **BRAZILIAN ROSE (7) (C&D,F)** R Menzies 5 9-9(5ex) Kaiya Fraser 80
4 (10) 3463-57 **GRABAJABBA (24) (C&D)** M Appleby 5 9-8 .. A Rawlinson 81
5 (2) 12-5 **LODGE (11)** B Meehan 4 9-8 ..... C Bishop 80
6 (4) 380LL-9 **MERESIDE DIVA (14) (D)** D & N Barron 6 9-6 .. C Rodriguez 84
7 (8) 047L04- ● **FEDERAL ENVOY (42) (C&D) (T)** I Jardine 5 9-6 R Havlin 78
8 (7) 215166- **SAYTARR (99) (D)** James Horton 4 9-6 ..... D Muscutt 82
9 (6) 622132- **SHAW PARK (152) (C&D)** S Dixon 7 9-5 ..... K O'Neill 82
10 (1) 1792-53 **CHOLA EMPIRE (7) (C&D)** D M Simcock 7 9-5 .. S D Bowen 82
11 (9) 1/204L6- **SINGOURA (158) (C&D)** G Tutty 4 9-4 ..... Joanna Mason ★86
12 (3) 01L7-63 **EXPRESS TRAIN (14)** A Balding 4 9-1 ..... P J McDonald 83

VISOR: No. 1 TONGUE STRAP: No. 1 CHEEK PIECES: No. 4 HOOD: No. 3.

SP FORECAST: 5-2 Brazilian Rose, 6 Shaw Park, 8 Chola Empire, 10 Blazing Son, Saytarr, Lodge, How Impressive, Express Train, Grabajabba, 16 Others.

3.03 ALWAYS GAMBLE RESPONSIBLY HANDICAP
£7,956 (3) 7f 14yds (9)

1 (2) 6563L-0 **WILLEM TWEE (29)** J Fanshawe 7 9-10 ..... D Muscutt 105
2 (8) 56638/9- **DIDEROT (357)** J Camacho 8 9-6 ..... R Scott 95
3 (7) 115/7L-4 **DOCTOR KHAN JUNIOR (23) (C&D)** G Oldroyd 7 9-6 P J McDonald 101
4 (3) 5105-31 **LEGAL REFORM (35) (C&D)** M Herrington 9 9-5 .. C Rodriguez 100
5 (9) 097414- **ELDRICKJONES (48) (D,F)** Roger Fell 7 9-2 .. W Fentiman(5) 101
6 (4) 4205-12 **TALIS EVOLVERE (14) (C,D,F)** R Hannon 6 9-2 A Voikhansky 102
7 (5) 44916L- **GALLANT (58)** Oli Rix 4 9-2 ..... J Peate 101
8 (1) 102025- **FLAG OF ST GEORGE (35) (D)** J Chapple-Hyam 5 8-11 Joanna Mason 104
9 (6) 1442-11 ● **DOWN TO THE KID (7) (C&D)** M Herrington 7 8-10(4ex) E Greatrex ★106

BLINKERS: No. 8 VISOR: No. 3 TONGUE STRAP: No. 7 CHEEK PIECES: No. 4 HOOD: No. 2.

SP FORECAST: 7-2 Down To The Kid, 4 Doctor Khan Junior, Talis Evolvere, 5 Legal Reform, 7 Eldrickjones, 8 Flag Of St George, 10 Diderot, 25 Willem Twee, 33 Gallant.

3.38 MIDNITE NEXT GENERATION APP HANDICAP
£4,972 (4) 1m 6f 21yds (7)

1 (6) 7L/5LP6- **TRAILA (33) (D)** D M Simcock 8 10-0 ..... D Muscutt 84
2 (8) 245770/ **REINA DEL MAR (J62)** T Vaughan 8 10-0 ..... S B Kirrane –
3 (7) 43/2298- **DON SIMON (219)** E Dunlop 5 9-12 ..... Doubtful 85
4 (1) 222223- **MILITARY CROSS (46)** J & T Gosden 4 9-9 ..... R Havlin 83
5 (3) 320255- **AAJEJ (33)** S & E Crisford 4 9-9 ..... S D Bowen 80
6 (2) L5954-3 **PLEASANT MAN (15) (C&D)** Joey Ramsden 8 9-9 W Fentiman(5) ★85
7 (5) 18343-3 **MOON SNIPER (17)** W Muir & C Grassick 4 9-4 P J McDonald 80
8 (4) 70/6220- ● **TROJAN SOLDIER (207)** J O'Keeffe 4 9-1 .. B Garritty 80

BLINKERS: No. 5 VISOR: No. 6 CHEEK PIECES: No. 4.

SP FORECAST: 2 Military Cross, 4 Moon Sniper, Reina Del Mar, 9-2 Trojan Soldier, 8 Pleasant Man, 10 Aajej, 33 Traila.
2025: Pleasant Man 7-10-0, Warren Fentiman(7) 9-2 (L Mullaney), drawn (7), 8 ran.

4.10 MAKE THE MOVE TO MIDNITE HANDICAP
£3,140 (6) 1m 3f 23yds (12)

1 (6) 746-421 **TIME TURNER (8) (F)** E Bethell 4 9-12(5ex) .. C Rodriguez 66
2 (10) 133783- **RUBELLITE (52) (C)** Fionn McSharry 6 9-9 T Cameron(7) 70
3 (3) 43162-2 **NAUGHTY NIALL (28) (C)** I Williams 5 9-7 R Kavanagh(5) ★71
4 (9) L6243-1 **BEACHBOROUGH GIRL (22)** J & S Birkett 4 9-7 D E Hogan 66
5 (2) 346-65 **SAAHIR (8)** D P Quinn 4 9-7 ..... D Keenan 62
6 (7) 4/4L35-2 **ROGUE IDENTITY (6) (F)** James Owen 4 9-6 .. D Muscutt 67
7 (5) 5483-51 **SISTERANDBROTHER (16)** S A Harris 8 9-6 .. A Rawlinson 67
8 (8) 680- ● **VELVET RED (155)** Charlie Clover 4 9-4 ..... R Scott 57
9 (12) 33438L- **SHIELAS WELL (41)** T Faulkner 4 9-3 ..... S Donohoe 68
10 (11) 5634S-3 **JACK ANDREA (24)** Darryll Holland 4 8-11 ..... S D Bowen 66
11 (4) 08-2858 **LAWMANS BLIS (4)** S A Harris 8 8-9 .. Laura Coughlan(3) 69
12 (1) L90-L **AYE UP TOM (20)** S England 4 8-7 ..... Rhys Elliott(5) 51

VISOR: No. 1 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 4 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 10 HOOD: Nos. 6, 12.

SP FORECAST: 11-4 Time Turner, 9-2 Naughty Niall, 5 Beachborough Girl, 6 Rogue Identity, 7 Sisterandbrother, Rubellite, 10 Saahir, 12 Jack Andrea, 33 Others.
TRACK FACTS: GOING: Standard. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Daniel Muscutt 15% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** M Appleby 10% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 2.02 Minnesota Lad (cheek pieces), 2.32 Grabajabba (cheek pieces), 3.38 Military Cross (cheek pieces), Aajej (blinkers), 4.10 Aye Up Tom (hood). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 2.02 Profit Street(hcp). 2.32 Saytarr(hcp). 3.38 Military Cross, Trojan Soldier(hcp). 4.10 Saahir(hcp). **DRAW:** No advantage. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Qazaq** (1.32) & **Federal Envoy** (2.32) 218 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 2.02 **Northern Attitude** from G Tutty to Joey Ramsden. 2.32 **Saytarr** from C Fellowes to James Horton. 3.03 **Diderot** from J Ferguson to J Camacho. 3.38 **Reina Del Mar** from J P O'Brien in Ireland to T Vaughan. 4.10 **Rubellite** from R Fahey to Fionn McSharry.

WOLVERHAMPTON SKYSPORTSRACING

THE SCOUT

5.00 Melek Alreeh 7.00 Hardstyle
5.30 Captain Pickles 7.30 Panama Black
6.00 Arlecchino's Rex 8.00 Chief Red Wing
6.30 Tommo's Ginjaninja 8.30 WATER OF LEITH

5.00 MIDNITE, FUTURE OF BETTING HANDICAP
£4,972 (Class 4) 1m 4f 51yds (10 declared)

1 (1) 6321-2L **MACHETE (17)** D O'Meara 7 10-0 ..... Jason Watson 86
2 (9) 6/L220-3 **MIDNIGHT RUMBLE (28)** A King 5 9-13 ..... L Catton(3) 86
3 (6) 40313-5 **KNOCKBREX (28) (D)** C Johnston 6 9-12 ..... J Mitchell 87
4 (7) 24256-2 ● **MELEK ALREEH (28) (D,F)** D M Simcock 7 9-11 .. L Morris 85
5 (3) 2595-22 **ROBUSTO (17) (D,F)** E J-Houghton 6 9-8 .. Harry Vigors(7) 88
6 (4) 7/1467-7 **SEA FOUNDER (14)** R Hughes 4 9-2 ..... F Marsh 88
7 (8) 74201-1 **DAMASCUS STEEL (20) (D)** D P Quinn 6 9-2 .. W Carson 85
8 (10) 638347- **YOKOHAMA (41)** J Butler 5 9-2 ..... D J Murphy(7) 86
9 (5) L384-42 **JODHPUR BLUE (10)** I Williams 5 9-0 ..... C Fallon 89
10 (2) 322-221 **CARDINAL POINT (7) (C&D)** M Bell 4 9-0(5ex) .. H Crouch ★90

BLINKERS: No. 5 VISOR: Nos. 7, 10 TONGUE STRAP: No. 9 HOOD: No. 6.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Cardinal Point, 6 Melek Alreeh, Robusto, 7 Jodhpur Blue, 8 Damascus Steel, Midnight Rumble, 10 Machete, 12 Knockbrex, 16 Others.

5.30 SAFER GAMBLING CLASSIFIED STAKES (DIV 1)
£4,711 (6) 1m 142yds (10)

1 (2) 827-943 **DASH POWER (10) (C&D)** L Mullaney 5 9-9 ..... H Davies 51
2 (3) 372-546 **HEADSHOT (10) (C&D)** A Carroll 8 9-9 .. Myla Coppins(7) ★57
3 (5) 794L5-7 **LADY DELILA (24) (T)** I Jardine 6 9-9 ..... A Mullen 51
4 (1) 63369-L **MR SLICKER (13) (D)** Sarah Hollinshead 12 9-9 .. J Leavy 54
5 (8) 31060-L **QUICK AWAY (26) (C&D)** K Frost 5 9-9 ..... J Mitchell 53
6 (9) 747343- **SCARFO (124) (C)** B J Llewellyn 5 9-9 .. Charlie Tucker(7) 48
7 (7) 973-075 **TRUSTY SCOUT (11) (C,D)** D Shaw 8 9-9 ..... C Hardie 51
8 (10) 66L00-9 **BLUEANDTANGERINE (19) (F)** M & D Easterby 4 9-8 Shane Gray 55
9 (4) 4L65-33 ● **CAPTAIN PICKLES (8)** T Culhane & S Barclay 4 9-8 Z Wheatley(3) 56
10 (6) 60096-5 **SOLD OUT (7)** J Mackie 4 9-8 ..... T Heard 45

BLINKERS: No. 1 VISOR: No. 8 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 4, 5.

SP FORECAST: 3 Captain Pickles, 7-2 Dash Power, 4 Headshot, 8 Trusty Scout, Scarfo, 10 Blueandtangerine, Quick Away, 12 Lady Delila, 33 Others.
2025: Quick Away 4-9-9, Rossa Ryan 15-8 Fav (K Frost), drawn (6), 8 ran.

6.00 SAFER GAMBLING CLASSIFIED STAKES (DIV 2)
£4,711 (6) 1m 142yds (10)

1 (4) 805-553 **BOSSY PARKER (7) (C)** T Culhane & S Barclay 6 9-9 Z Wheatley(3) 54
2 (5) 144334- **CHANGE OF FORTUNE (124)** B J Llewellyn 7 9-9 C Hutchinson 60
3 (3) 2724-86 **FIRST ENCOUNTER (16)** J Gallagher 5 9-9 ..... L Morris 59
4 (1) L4395-7 **LHEBAYEB (18) (C&D)** R J Price 8 9-9 ..... F Marsh ★61
5 (2) 20097-8 **PORT NOIR (35) (C&D)** R Stephens 9 9-9 ..... R Hornby 49
6 (9) L57L-77 **SAINT TERRY (9)** A Carroll 5 9-9 ..... W Carson 46
7 (10) 6541/5-8 **STAR OF ST LOUIS (11) (C&D,F)** Wayne Lukas 9 9-9 M Slater(7) 54
8 (6) 46609-3 ● **ARLECCHINO'S REX (18) (C,F)** M Usher 4 9-8 Jason Watson 51
9 (8) 0949-L6 **INVINCIBLE STORM (20)** E De Giles 4 9-8 ..... W Cox 50
10 (7) L9L4L- **PLATINUM BABE (179)** I Williams 4 9-8 ..... C Fallon 45

BLINKERS: No. 3 TONGUE STRAP: No. 5 CHEEK PIECES: No. 2.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Bossy Parker, 5-2 Change Of Fortune, 5 First Encounter, 6 Arlecchino's Rex, 10 Lhebayeb, 16 Star Of St Louis, 20 Port Noir, 25 Others.
2025: Annalee Lass 5-9-9, Callum Shepherd 5-1 (P Niven), drawn (6), 7 ran.

6.30 BETMGM RESTRICTED NOVICE STAKES
£5,400 (4) 1m 142yds (7)

1 (1) **BELLTONY** R J Price 4 10-2 ..... F Marsh –
2 (7) L **HENGIST POD (15)** C Johnston 3 8-9 ..... A Mullen 9
3 (3) 45- **HOT TO HOT (50)** J Tate 3 8-7 ..... H Davies 59
4 (6) 69 **SI WHITE (10)** Sir M Prescott 3 8-7 ..... L Morris 39
5 (5) 7-3 **TERRANOBLE (27)** D Coakley 3 8-7 ..... T Heard 54
6 (2) 2 ● **TOMMO'S GINJANINJA (28) (F)** M & D Easterby 3 8-7 JP Sullivan ★60
7 (4) 7 **PANGBOURNE (27)** R Teal 3 8-2 ..... C Hardie 34

SP FORECAST: 6-4 Tommo's Ginjaninja, 5-2 Terranoble, Hot To Hot, 12 Hengist Pod, 20 Si White, 25 Pangbourne, 50 Belltony.

7.00 BETMGM'S GOLDEN GOALS HANDICAP 3YO
£3,716 (5) 1m 1f 104yds (7)

1 (2) 4542- **TOASTMASTER (67)** S & E Crisford 9-9 ..... H Davies 76
2 (7) 01- **CROCKHAM HEATH (71) (F)** A Balding 9-6 .. C Hutchinson 71
3 (5) 6561-L **FLORIDA SUITE (27)** W Haggas 9-4 ..... C Fallon 75
4 (3) 205523- **PHANTOM WATCH (33)** H Palmer 9-4 ..... L Morris 78
5 (4) 73731-3 **CHARLOTTE CORDAY (27) (C&D)** E Walker 9-4 Harry Vigors(7) 77
6 (6) 96-6 **ANGRY ANT (16)** J Osborne 9-0 ..... R Hornby 81
7 (1) 664-112 ● **HARDSTYLE (9) (C)** G Boughey 9-0(6ex) .. P Cosgrave ★82

VISOR: No. 4 TONGUE STRAP: No. 1 CHEEK PIECES: No. 3.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Hardstyle, 5-2 Toastmaster, 5 Crockham Heath, 13-2 Charlotte Corday, 10 Phantom Watch, Angry Ant, 12 Florida Suite.

7.30 ALWAYS GAMBLE RESPONSIBLY HANDICAP
£4,972 (4) 1m 142yds (10)

1 (10) 2/2113-9 **CRISTO (14)** R Hannon 4 9-13 ..... S M Levey 88
2 (5) L578-73 **EPICTETUS (14) (F)** J Osborne 6 9-10 ..... R Hornby ★93
3 (4) 1143-34 **TRIBAL WISDOM (8) (C&D)** I Williams 7 9-8 ..... C Hardie 89
4 (6) 453444- **BORGI (55) (C&D)** S Woods 7 9-7 ..... C Fallon 91
5 (9) 4/1227L- **CITY OF GOD (237) (F)** K R Burke 4 9-6 ..... Shane Gray 85
6 (3) 2241IL- **SPECIAL GHAIYYATH (70)** J Tate 4 9-5 ..... H Crouch 88
7 (7) 2372-25 **HITCHED (7) (C&D)** D M Simcock 6 9-5 ..... L Morris 90
8 (8) 05L763- **FARASI LANE (34)** Dr R Newland & J Insole 8 9-3 Jason Watson 90
9 (2) 03113-7 **UNITING (14)** I Williams 4 9-3 ..... C Hutchinson 90
10 (1) 685668- ● **PANAMA BLACK (191)** B Meehan 4 9-2 ..... J Leavy 83

BLINKERS: No. 2 TONGUE STRAP: No. 3 HOOD: No. 7.

SP FORECAST: 7-2 Epictetus, 5 City Of God, 6 Cristo, 7 Uniting, Borgi, 8 Farasi Lane, 10 Tribal Wisdom, 12 Hitched, Special Ghaiyyath, Panama Black.
2025: Destructive 4-9-9, Hector Crouch 10-3 Fav (M Bell), drawn (8), 9 ran.

8.00 BETMGM.CO.UK HANDICAP 3YO
£3,716 (5) 7f 36yds (9)

1 (2) 43L153- **URGENT CALL (45) (D)** C Johnston 9-9 ..... C Fallon 75
2 (8) 1-2 **THREE NON BLONDES (29)** K R Burke 9-9 .. P-L Jamin 73
3 (1) 426L32- **BALTHAMOS (45)** S & E Crisford 9-8 ..... H Davies 76
4 (9) 815L1-L **ILLY'S ROO (16) (D)** J Channon 9-8 ..... G Bass 76
5 (5) L74- ● **CHIEF RED WING (65)** B Meehan 9-7 ..... J Leavy 75
6 (3) 32521- **MARSEILLAN (30) (D)** Lemos Souza 9-7 ..... L Morris 78
7 (4) 055-1 **BECAUSE WE CAN (18) (C&D)** C Cox 9-3 Georgia Dobie ★79
8 (7) 5833- **MY SHAGAF (42)** T Kent 9-2 ..... J Nicholls(5) 74
9 (6) 31LL6-3 **FERMAIN (13)** G Boughey 9-2 ..... Grace McEntee 77

BLINKERS: Nos. 6, 8 VISOR: No. 7 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 6, 9 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 9 HOOD: No. 3.

SP FORECAST: 5-2 Three Non Blondes, 6 Balthamos, Marseillan, 13-2 Chief Red Wing, 7 Because We Can, 8 Fermain, 10 My Shagaf, 12 Urgent Call, Illy's Roo.
**2025: Standput 9-4, Sean Levey 5-1 (R Hannon), drawn

DRIVING AMBITION
American Reed is relishing his return to the PGA Tour

'New chapter' for Patrick but LIV bosses will Reed it & weep

BY **NEIL McLEMAN**

PATRICK REED launched "a new chapter" in his career in his first event since quitting LIV yesterday – and declared: "I can't wait for it to get really rolling".

The American announced on Wednesday he will not be signing a new contract with the Saudi-backed league and will return to the PGA Tour later this year.

It is the latest blow to LIV Golf after Brooks Koepka's defection with Harris English claiming that "the dominoes are starting to fall".

Reed shot an opening 71 at the Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship on the DP World Tour – and has also added next week's Qatar Masters to his schedule. After winning the Hero Dubai Desert Classic on Sunday, the 2018 Masters champion revealed he was out of contract at LIV Golf.

He then announced he will now play on the DP World Tour until he can return to the PGA Tour in August.

"With everything that has transpired over the past 48 hours, and really even since Sunday and last week, it's something that I felt was the best decision for me," Reed said.

"I've really enjoyed all of my time out there on LIV. It's been a blast.

"I am really excited to be out here to play on the DP World Tour like always, and really excited to get back to the PGA Tour and start playing close to home.

"Now we're starting a new chapter and I can't wait for it to get really rolling." Reed will return to the PGA Tour in August – a year after playing his last LIV Golf event – in the past champion category after his nine wins.

He can improve his 2027 Tour status by finishing in the top 10 in the DP World Tour's Race to Dubai.

The new world No.29 is second after his win in last week's tournament behind South African Jayden Schaper.

With Koepka returning to the PGA Tour at the Farmers Insurance Open in California this week, LIV Golf is now facing a crisis before the start of their new season in Riyadh next week.

Speaking at Torrey Pines, world No.11 English (left) said: "The dominoes are starting to fall of those guys on the LIV Tour that are not that happy out there. The grass is not greener on the other side.

"They're seeing the PGA Tour getting stronger and having more success, and kind of seeing that money's not the end all, be all.

"Like that doesn't fulfil them. It doesn't fulfil me. They're still competitors, they're competitive people and they love playing in the biggest events against the best players in the world.

"For me, that's out here on the PGA Tour and I think they're starting to realise that, that that's what fulfils them."

Freddy Schott and Alejandro Del Rey shared the first round lead at the Royal Golf Club in Bahrain after opening 65s. England's Laurie Canter is in a five-strong group a shot behind.

SAILOR HITS JACKS-POT

RUGBY LEAGUE
BY **JOSH McALLISTER**

TRISTAN SAILOR is confident his new partnership with Jackson Hastings can help unlock his full potential as St Helens bid to end their trophy drought.

Saints have rung the changes during the off-season.

Paul Rowley has been appointed as head coach to succeed Paul Wellens, while high-profile signings, including NRL duo David Klemmer and Jacob Host, have arrived.

Hastings, the 2019 Man of Steel, is reunited with Rowley, joining former Salford stars Joe Shorrocks and Nene Macdonald in making the move.

Last season marked a third consecutive trophyless campaign for Saints, a stark contrast to the silverware-laden years they enjoyed from 2019.

Sailor (right) was in his first year in England following a move from Brisbane Broncos. Despite close scrutiny, the 27-year-old still registered 18 tries in an ever-present run.

The Queensland native is confident he can reach new heights, aided by a settled half-back combination with two-tine Grand Finalist Hastings. "The spine shuffles from last year probably hurt us a bit as a team," Sailor admitted.

"For me, it was hard to get rhythm in one position – though I'm happy to do it.

"Jackson has been massive. He's a natural and dominant seven, and they're rare to come by.

"Jack Welsby and I can both play a natural running game, it's what we do best. Jacko tells everyone where to go, kicks the ball and we have to do what we're good at. Everyone is sharpening each other."

Code: RN

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SPORT IN BRIEF

UEFA Europa League - League Stage

ASTON VILLA (0)....3	**R B SALZBURG (1) 2**
Rogers 64	Konate 33
Mings 76	Yeo 49
Jimoh 87	
BASEL (0).....0	**PLZEN (1).....1**
	Panos 39
CELTIC (3).....4	**UTRECHT (1).....2**
Nygren 6	de Wit 44
Viergever 10 (og)	Blake 62
Engels 19 (pen)	
Trusty 66	
PORTO (3).....3	**RANGERS (1).....1**
Mora 27	Gassama 6
Moura 36	
Fernandez 41 (og)	
FCSB (0).....1	**FENERBAHCE (1)..1**
Cisotti 71	Yuksek 18
GENK (1).....2	**MALMO FF (1).....1**
Heymans 45 (pen)	Ali 4
Karetsas 82	
GO AHEAD E (0).....0	**BRAGA (0).....0**
LILLE (0).....1	**FREIBURG (0).....0**
Giroud 90 (pen)	
LUDOGORETS (1)...1	**NICE (0).....0**
Stanic 42	
LYON (1).....4	**PAOK (1).....2**
Himbert 33	Giakoumakis 20
Merah 55	Meite 66
Karabec 88	
Gomes 90	
M TEL-AVIV (0).....0	**BOLOGNA (1).....3**
	Rowe 35
	Orsolini 47
	Pobega 90
MIDTJYLLAND (0)..2	**D ZAGREB (0).....0**
Simsir 49	
Jensen 74	
NOTTM FOR (2).....4	**FERENCVAROS (0) 0**
Otvos 17 (og)	
Igor Jesus 21, 55	
McAtee 90 (pen)	
PANATH'KOS (0)....1	**ROMA (0).....1**
Taborda 58	Ziolkowski 80
REAL BETIS (2).....2	**FEYENOORD (0)....1**
Antony 17	Tengstedt 77
Ezzalzouli 32	
R S BELGRADE (0) .1	**CELTA VIGO (0).....1**
Duarte 89	Lopez 87
STURM GRAZ (0)....1	**BRANN (0).....0**
Kiteishvili 85	
STUTTGART (2).....3	**YOUNG BOYS (1)..2**
Undav 6	Gigovic 42
Demirovic 7	Lauper 57
Andres 90	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lyon	8	7	0	1	18	5	21
Aston Villa	8	7	0	1	14	6	21
Midtjylland	8	6	1	1	18	8	19
Real Betis	8	5	2	1	13	7	17
FC Porto	8	5	2	1	13	7	17
Braga	8	5	2	1	11	5	17
Freiburg	8	5	2	1	10	4	17
Roma	8	5	1	2	13	6	16
Genk	8	5	1	2	11	7	16
Bologna	8	4	3	1	14	7	15
Stuttgart	8	5	0	3	15	9	15
Ferencvaros	8	4	3	1	12	11	15
Nottm Forest	8	4	2	2	15	7	14
Plzen	8	3	5	0	8	3	14
Red Star Belgrade	8	4	2	2	7	6	14
Celta Vigo	8	4	1	3	15	11	13
PAOK	8	3	3	2	17	14	12
Lille	8	4	0	4	12	9	12
Fenerbahce	8	3	3	2	10	7	12
Panathinaikos	8	3	3	2	11	9	12
Celtic	8	3	2	3	13	15	11
Ludogorets	8	3	1	4	12	15	10
Dinamo Zagreb	8	3	1	4	12	16	10
Brann	8	2	3	3	9	11	9
Young Boys	8	3	0	5	10	16	9
Sturm Graz	8	2	1	5	5	11	7
FCSB	8	2	1	5	9	16	7
Go Ahead Eagles	8	2	1	5	6	14	7
Feyenoord	8	2	0	6	11	15	6
Basel	8	2	0	6	9	13	6
Red Bull Salzburg	8	2	0	6	10	15	6
Rangers	8	1	1	6	5	14	4
Nice	8	1	0	7	7	15	3
Utrecht	8	0	1	7	5	15	1
Malmo FF	8	0	1	7	4	15	1
M Tel-Aviv	8	0	1	7	2	22	1

TENNIS

AUSTRALIAN OPEN (Melbourne)— **Women's Singles Semi-finals:** (1) A Sabalenka (Blr) bt (12) E Svitolina (Ukr) 6-2 6-3, (5) E Rybakina (Kaz) bt (6) J Pegula (USA) 6-3 7-6 (9-7). **Men's Doubles Semi-finals:** J Kubler (Aus) & M Polmans (Aus) bt L Johnson (Gbr) & J Zielinski (Pol) 6-2 3-6 6-3, (6) C Harrison (USA) & N Skupski (Gbr) bt (3) M Granollers (Spa) & H Zeballos (Arg) 6-3 7-6 (9-7). **Women's Doubles Semi-finals:** (7) A Danilina (Kaz) & A Krunic (Ser) bt (5) G Dabrowski (Can) & L Stefani (Bra) 7-6 (7-2) 3-6 6-4, (4) E Mertens (Bel) & S Zhang (Chn) bt E Shibahara (Jpn) & V Zvonareva (Rus) 6-3 6-2.

TODAY'S DIARY

(7.45pm unless stated)

Sky Bet Championship
Bristol City v Derby (8pm)..... (Live on Sky Sports Main Event)

William Hill Scottish Championship
St Johnstone v Partick..... (Live on BBC Scotland)

CRICKET
First Twenty20 International: Sri Lanka v England (Pallekele, 1.30pm).

RUGBY UNION
Premiership Cup Pool B (7.45): Newcastle v Saracens.
United Rugby Championship (7.45): Benetton Treviso v Scarlets, Glasgow v Munster.

Neither Sabalenka nor Rybakina has dropped a set on way to final so now...

SOMETHING'S GOT TO GIVE

FROM **YASMIN SYED** IN MELBOURNE

ARYNA SABALENKA and Elena Rybakina will meet in a rematch of their 2023 Australian Open final – and neither of them are yet to drop a set.

Three years ago, Sabalenka came back from a set down to win her first Major title. Now she has two Aussie Open and two US Open titles under her belt.

The No.1 seed won six of the last seven games to beat Ukrainian star Elina Svitolina 6-2 6-3 in the semi-finals.

Rybakina, the No.5 seed, survived a late wobble, saving a set point before going on to beat Jessica Pegula 6-3 7-6.

Belarusian Sabalenka gave thanks afterwards to umpire Louise Azemar Engzell for a strange moment at the start of the fourth game when she was penalised for a hindrance.

Engzell ruled that Sabalenka, who is known for her loud grunting, had called out after she had hit the ball, upholding the decision following a review.

"That's actually never happened to me," Sabalenka said. "Especially with my grunting, it's so off I think. I was exhaling and it just happened naturally. Then she called it, and I was, like, 'What? What is wrong with you?'

"She really p***** me off, and it actually helped me and benefited my game. I was more aggressive. So, if she ever wants to do it again, I want to make sure that she's not afraid of it. Go ahead, call it. It's going to help me."

The crowd were told before the match and before the final game that there would be no handshake in a bid to avoid the scenes after Svitolina's contest against Mirra Andreeva earlier in the tournament, when fans mistakenly thought the Russian had snubbed her opponent and booed. Ukrainian players have not shaken hands with Russian or Belarusian opponents after matches since the invasion of their country four years ago.

"It's their decision, and I respect that," Sabalenka said. "I think she knows that I respect her as a player.

"I know that she respects me as a player. That's all I care about."

Sabalenka became the first woman to reach four consecutive finals here since Martina Hingis, who made six in a row from 1997 to 2002.

Svitolina has spoken movingly about the motivation she takes from trying to provide light in dark times for her nation, and she will have a return to the top 10 for the first time since the birth of daughter Skai in 2022 to celebrate on Monday.

While disappointed with the result, Svitolina said: "I have this amazing opportunity to play on centre court here, represent my country, to do it in a decent way, and to use my words and just be there for my people.

"When I wake up in the morning, I see, of course, terrifying news, but then I see people watching my matches. They write comments and I think it's like a big exchange of positive emotions.

"People are living a horrible and terrifying life in Ukraine, so I should not be allowed to really be sad, because I'm a very, very lucky person."

This will be Rybakina's first Grand Slam final since losing to Sabalenka here three years ago. After reaching her third major final, the Kazakhstan player said: "Definitely very happy to be in the final again, and I was close other years, seasons, when I played semis in the other Slams.

"But now I'm closer, which is great. It's just one step to go."

Emma in new coach hunt

FROM BACK PAGE

Petchey and now Roig. Taking to Instagram, Raducanu shared a photograph of herself and Roig smiling on a teebox while playing golf.

Captioning the picture, she wrote: "Francis, thank you for our time together.

"You have been more than a coach to me and I will cherish the many good times we spent together on and off the court. While we have come to the conclusion together that we ought not to move forward, please know that I am very grateful for all that you have taught me and fond of our time shared."

Raducanu is due to play at the Transylvania Open in Cluj, Romania, which starts on Sunday.

Djokovic won't fly 'white flag'

FROM **YASMIN SYED**

NOVAK DJOKOVIC admitted he's nowhere near the top two men in tennis – but insisted he will not give up as he looks to cause a major upset at the Australian Open.

Djokovic, 38, will face Jannik Sinner in the semi-finals, while No.1 seed Carlos Alcaraz meets last year's runner-up Alexander Zverev.

Sinner and Alcaraz could set up a fourth consecutive grand slam final between themselves. But Djokovic, right, said: "Are Alcaraz and Sinner better right now than me and all the other guys? Yes, they are. The quality and the level is amazing. It's great. It's phenomenal.

"But does that mean I walk out with a white flag? No. I'm going to fight until the last shot, the last point, and do my very best to challenge them."

Sinner could become the only player to beat 10-time Australian Open champion Djokovic six times in a row. He said: "I'm lucky to have someone like him in front of my eyes. I can hopefully learn something."

SKI RUN TO FINAL

NEAL SKUPSKI is targeting a maiden Australian Open title after reaching a first Grand Slam final with new doubles partner Christian Harrison.

The pair are playing in only their second tournament together.

Skupski's previous partner, fellow British star Joe Salisbury, announced he was taking a break because of anxiety.

Skupski and American Harrison could not have made a better start together, with their 6-3 7-6 victory over third seeds Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos putting them through to tomorrow's final against Australian wild cards Jason Kubler and Marc Polmans.

"It feels amazing," said Liverpudlian Skupski (left). "I'm very excited.

"My first and also Christian's first Australian Open final. It's going to be a tough one. They'll have the home support, but hopefully we can get a few fans in and make it rowdy."

Mutual friends helped Harrison and Skupski team up.

EYE OPENER
Salt celebrates his 141 not out against South Africa last year at Old Trafford

PHIL HAS WORLD AT HIS FEATS

Salt's out to be top dog in T20

SRI LANKA v ENGLAND
First T20: Starts 1.30pm

FROM **SCOTT HUNT** IN KANDY

PHIL SALT has his sights set on becoming the best T20 batter in the world as he bids to fire England to T20 World Cup glory.

Salt has arrived in Sri Lanka for a three-match T20 series, which starts today, ahead of England's opening World Cup clash against Nepal in Mumbai on Sunday week.

The explosive opener has a superb T20 record for England and is second in the ICC T20 rankings behind Indian superstar Abhishek Sharma.

In 50 T20 internationals, Salt has four centuries, an average of 38.5 and a strike rate of 168.

The 29-year-old smashed a career-best 141 not out against South Africa at the end of last summer, as England became the first Test team to score over 300 in a T20 match.

Salt admits he is a huge fan of Sharma, who boasts an extraordinary strike rate just shy of 200, and is out to claim his spot as the best in the world.

"I really like watching him bat. [Catching him] is something that's in the back of my mind," Salt said.

"I'd like to go past him in the rankings. That's been my goal for a while, even when Suryakumar Yadav was No.1. I don't know what it is. The fact Sharma can hit the first ball for six like that, the way he runs down the wicket... I'm never going to be him. He's never going to be me."

Salt has played in two T20 World Cups for England, collecting a winners' medal in 2022, having played in the semi-final and final, and helping the team to the semi-finals in 2024.

And while confident in England's chances, Salt is wary of the challenge of beating co-hosts India.

"We're not a team a lot of teams will want to play against, especially in a World Cup, in knockout cricket. We're in a good place," Salt said.

"Everyone's going to need a bit of luck to beat India, they are by far and away the strongest team in the World Cup.

"I am really excited by the idea we get to come up against them in a World Cup in their backyard."

Salt was out of the starting line-up for much of England's 2022 triumph in Australia before not needing to bat in the semi-final win over India and making only 10 in the final victory over Pakistan.

And he added: "That's a massive source of motivation for myself. Hopefully, I start this one in the team and put a stamp on it."

Jofra Archer has been named in England's team to face Sri Lanka in the first T20 today after recovering from injury.

The fast bowler, 30, missed the final two Ashes Tests after sustaining a side strain.

England: Phil Salt, Jos Buttler (wicketkeeper), Jacob Bethell, Tom Banton, Harry Brook (captain), Sam Curran, Will Jacks, Jamie Overton, Liam Dawson, Jofra Archer, Adil Rashid.

'I really like watching Sharma bat. Catching him is something that's in the back of my mind'

Littler out to Master another tournament

BY **JONATHAN VEAL**

LUKE LITTLER heads to the World Masters today aiming to take another step on his journey to complete the full set of dart's major prizes.

The back-to-back world champion has set his sights on winning all of the major televised events and only has the World Masters in Milton Keynes, the European Championship and the World Cup of Darts to go after a stunning first two years on the tour.

He will be the favourite to prevail in MK and is focused on doing the business.

"It's a title that I've not picked up yet and I definitely want to go to Milton Keynes and I want to become champion," the 19-year-old, fresh from birthday celebrations in Dubai, said.

"I wouldn't say I'm fired up, but I'll definitely, definitely be ready for it. It's one that I haven't got yet and definitely want it.

"I'll be going to Milton Keynes only for the second time now. It's a tournament I want to win. Obviously, it's the short format with the two sets involved. So you've got to be very quick. You've got to fly out the traps. But we can only see what happens next weekend."

Littler is more vulnerable over shorter matches and has a tough opening round after being pitted against Mike De Decker.

THE RIGHT NOISES Littler is favourite to land World Masters

WORLD OF SPORT

Mitchell's in place to conquer globe again

RUGBY UNION

ENGLAND Women head coach John Mitchell has signed a new contract to lead the team to the 2029 World Cup in Australia.

The 61-year-old guided the Red Roses to World Cup glory on home soil last year following a 33-13 victory over Canada in the final at Twickenham in September.

MITCHELL

England are currently on a world-record 25-match winning run and have clinched two Six Nations Grand Slams since Mitchell was appointed in 2023. "I am pleased to extend my time with the Red Roses," the 2025 World Rugby coach of the year said.

"This extension provides continuity across a World Cup cycle and enables the programme to operate with a clear, long-term vision."

Mitchell will be supported by forwards coach Louis Deacon and defence coach Sarah Hunter, while Lou Meadows is set to depart her role as attack coach."

THE BIG PICTURE

DRY RUN: The peloton in the AlUla Tour in Saudi Arabia

AJ's tearful tribute

BOXING

BY **GEORGE SESSIONS**

ANTHONY JOSHUA fought back tears as he spoke about the deaths of close friends Sina Ghami and Latif 'Latz' Ayodele.

Two-time world heavyweight champion Joshua was involved in the fatal car crash in Nigeria last month which killed both men.

Joshua told his official YouTube channel: "We went home, to see our families, and everything got flipped upside down on its head." He was tearful as he reflected on the loss of his "brothers" and "lieutenants" before regaining his composure.

"Yeah, it's a shame," he said. "I've lost people before, but I don't think I've lost people like that, my left and my right, you know? I'm the big guy, but I was walking with giants that kept me protected.

"I'm going to do what is right by them"

10 to tackle

1. Who scored two tries for Newcastle Red Bulls in the 2025-2026 Gallagher PREM Round 8 defeat at Bristol Bears?
2. Which Briton won silver in the senior women's race at the 2025 European Cross Country Championships?
3. Who made 170 for Australia in the 2nd innings of the 3rd Test win over England in Adelaide in December, 2025?
4. Pedro Monzon of Argentina was the first player to be sent off in a World Cup Final, in 1990. Who was the second?
5. Which tennis player was the first to win all four major men's singles titles in one year, in 1938?
6. Which American boxer was World Welterweight Champion from 1966 to 1969?
7. In archery, what name is given to the groove in an arrow that keeps it in place on the bowstring?
8. Which horse race, part of the American Triple Crown, is run at Churchill Downs, Louisville, each May?
9. Which Canadian city has an ice hockey team known as the Oilers?
10. In which sport is the Leonard Trophy contested?

RATINGS
0-3 Oh dear
4-6 Small beer
7-9 So near
10 Sporting Seer

ANSWERS: 1 Oli Spencer 2 Megan Keith 3 Travis Head 4 Gustavo Dezotti, also of Argentina, in the same match 5 Don Budge 6 Curtis Cokes 7 Nock 8 Kentucky Derby 9 Edmonton 10 Bowls

With OLIVIA BUZAGLO and JOLEON LESCOTT

CARRICK IMPACT WITH REDS IS 'NO SURPRISE'

BY **BEN CRAWFORD**

MARLON HAREWOOD is not surprised by Michael Carrick's impact as interim manager of Manchester United.

Carrick has enjoyed the perfect start to life at the Red Devils after taking over from Ruben Amorim. A 2-0 derby victory against Manchester City in his first game was followed by a 3-2 win away at Arsenal.

A permanent successor to Amorim will be appointed at the end of the season and Carrick is strengthening his credentials by the week.

Harewood (right), who played with the 44-year-old at West Ham for just under a year, is not surprised by his early success.

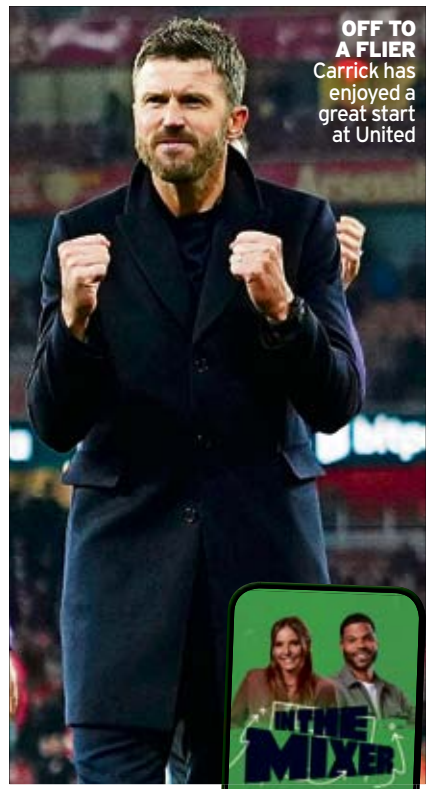
"Mike is a good guy. I know what he's like from when I played with him at West Ham," said Harewood, speaking on In The Mixer brought to you by Sky Bet.

"He's well respected with his mannerisms and how he carries himself. So I'm assuming he went in there, he knows what the club's like and how to get the best out of it.

"He's got a lot of good people around him that want to help. They would have talked to him and he knows how to talk to the players. You can see, just look at the reaction of the players when they're running.

"Because any team that goes into a game and starts running the way they have and producing what they have, it's a credit to Michael.

"I think that's a credit to him as a person and how he wants to deal with it."



OFF TO A FLIER Carrick has enjoyed a great start at United

Pards was teased over Wenger bust-up

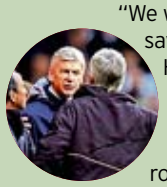
MARLON HAREWOOD teased Alan Pardew about being beaten up by Arsene Wenger when the managers clashed in 2006.

Pardew's West Ham and Wenger's Arsenal clashed at Upton Park nearly 20 years ago. A late Harewood goal sent the home faithful wild and boss Pardew was equally excitable.

The English manager celebrated madly in front of the Gunners' bench and Wenger confronted him (inset). The Frenchman shoved Pardew before the two squared up.

"We were hammering him and saying, 'You'd get beat up,'" said Harewood. "I didn't even know [they fought] because I was celebrating.

"Then we sat in the dressing room and saw the confrontation. We were like, 'Pards, what are you doing? You're gonna get beaten up!'"



WATCH IN THE MIXER NOW

VILLA OUT OF A JAM

Teen star Jimoh-Aloba in dreamland

ASTON VILLA 3
Rogers 64, Mings 76, Jimoh-Aloba 87
RB SALZBURG 2
Konate 33, Yeo 49

BY **JOHN TOWNLEY**

JAMALDEEN JIMOH-ALOBA scored his first Aston Villa goal to help Unai Emery's side secure a top-two finish in the league phase of the Europa League.

The 19-year-old climbed off the bench to net late on as Villa came from two goals down to win and give themselves home advantage in the second legs of the knockout games all the way to the final.

Karim Konate opened the scoring for RB Salzburg in the first half, before Moussa Yeo doubled the lead early in the second period.

Morgan Rogers cut the deficit and Tyrone Mings (circle) equalised in the 76th minute before Jimoh-Aloba's decisive late strike (above).

Harvey Elliott made his first start for Villa in 123 days and almost marked the occasion by scoring inside 30 seconds.

Ollie Watkins' effort from outside the box was parried by Alexander Schlager, presenting Elliott with a golden opportunity from close range, but the Salzburg goalkeeper saved with his feet.

That proved to be Villa's only real threat as the hosts came under pressure. Emi Martínez was twice forced into action to deny Soumaila Diabate and Konate. However, Konate would not be denied, scoring after Mings was robbed of possession inside the area by Michael Baidoo.

Despite Victor Lindelof's best efforts to clear the ball off the line, the Swede could only divert it into his own net.

Minutes later, Watkins was forced off with a suspected hamstring injury. Villa began the second half as they ended the first and were punished for their sluggish display when Yeo flicked Kerim Alajbegovic's cross past Martínez.

Sota Kitano should have made it three, flashing a shot past the far post after being played onside by Mings. Substitute Rogers breathed life back into Villa when he combined with Emi Buendia before finishing.

Mings made up for his earlier mistake when he headed in Matty Cash's cross. With just three minutes to go, the turnaround was complete.

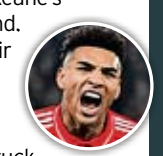
Kadan Young slid the ball across goal with Jimoh-Aloba slotting it into the top corner.

ASTON VILLA (4-2-3-1): Martinez; Bogarde, Lindelof, Mings, Digne; Onana (Konsa 66), Hemmings (Cash 46); Elliott, Buendia (Jimoh-Aloba 66), Sancho (Young 78); Watkins (Rogers 35)
RB SALZBURG (4-2-3-1): Schlager; Trummer, Gadou, Schuster, Kratzig; Bidstrup, Diabate (Lukic 88); Baidoo (Onisiwo 73), Kitano (Kjaergaard 88), Alajbegovic (Bischoff 73), Konate (Yeo 46)
REFEREE: Rohit Saggi (Norway)

JESUS DEADLY DOUBLE

IGOR JESUS scored twice as Nottingham Forest ended the league phase with a superb 4-0 win over Robbie Keane's Ferencvaros at the City Ground.

Forest rubber-stamped their place in the play-offs. An own goal from Bence Otvos put them ahead before Jesus (right) added a second. He struck again in the 55th minute, with James McAtee scoring a 90th-minute penalty as Ferencvaros missed out on the top eight.



CELTIC ARE UP FOUR IT

CELTIC sealed a place in the play-offs as they beat Utrecht 4-2.

Benjamin Nygren put them ahead, a Nick Viergever own goal made it 2-0 and it was 3-0 by the 19th minute as Arne Engels converted a penalty. Utrecht hit back through Dani de Wit before Adrian Blake made it 3-2. Auston Trusty then struck for the home side.

European form can Spur us on in Prem says Joao

BY **ALASDAIR GOLD**

JOAO PALHINHA believes Tottenham must begin a new phase to take the momentum of their European run into the Premier League and relieve the pressure on Thomas Frank.

Spurs secured their spot in the last 16 of the Champions League with their 2-0 win in Frankfurt on Wednesday night.

That meant they finished fourth in the table – above Barcelona, Real Madrid and last year's winners Paris Saint-Germain.

They are also above fellow Premier League sides Chelsea, Manchester City and Newcastle.

The win secured a huge £43million cash windfall and Tottenham will take on one of Juventus, Atletico Madrid, Club Brugge or Galatasaray in the round of 16 in March.

Yet that European progress comes at the same time as Frank faces major pressure over his future at the club, with Spurs 14th in the Premier League and out of both domestic cup competitions. On Sunday, the north London outfit host Manchester City to kick off a run of tough games against Pep Guardiola's side, Manchester United, Newcastle and North London rivals Arsenal.

Spurs beat City 2-0 under Frank at the Etihad Stadium back in August.

And one of the goalscorers that day, midfielder Palhinha, believes it's time for the club to show a new side.

"That's the Tottenham we all wish [for], to beat top teams," he said.

"We need to take this victory and important qualification to give a big jump in everything that has passed in the last couple of months and start a new phase, hopefully."

'We have top players, top staff as well. We need to change the momentum'

The Portugal international believes the players must take responsibility for the stark contrast between Tottenham's continental and domestic form.

"The injuries don't help but the responsibility is mainly with the players, because we should do much better in key moments," said the 30-year-old.

"We conceded some goals we shouldn't in important games.

"We lost important points that would have put us in a different position in the table right now. The main thing is, with this qualification, to make something different from right now. We have top players, top staff as well.

"We all want to change the momentum in the Premier League."

Palhinha, on loan from Bayern Munich, admits things have been tough on boss Frank.

"All of us at the club are in this together," he said.

"The responsibility is not with the coach, although of course the coach will receive it because of results.

"We know how it is in football Sometimes it's not easy to be a coach, but the responsibility is also with the players and some things need to improve. We recognise where we need to be better."

Asked whether Tottenham could go all the way in Europe and triumph in Budapest in May, the experienced midfielder was far too wily and replied: "It's not about winning the Champions League.

"In life it needs to be with steps. I know what you want to hear from me!

"Let's see who we find in the next round. The focus right now is on the Premier League."

THANKS PAL Palhinha is backing boss Thomas Frank

TIME TO END THE JEKYLL & HYDE ACT

BAFFLING Burn thought PSG handball was a penalty

Burn puts ref on spot over penalty blow

BY **LEE RYDER**

NEWCASTLE defender Dan Burn has revealed what the referee told him after dismissing a penalty appeal against Paris Saint-Germain.

The French side had an early chance in the Champions League clash after a spot-kick was awarded for handball.

But Newcastle were denied in a similar penalty box incident to spark controversy at Parc des Princes.

Lewis Miley was adjudged to have handled the ball in the opening minute after the ball bounced off Bradley Barcola's arm.

Referee Slavko Vincic awarded a penalty after a VAR intervention, but Nick Pope produced a great save to deny Ousmane Dembele.

In the closing minutes of the first half, PSG defender Marquinhos appeared to have handled after a Burn flick on from a Lewis Hall throw-in. However, the Slovenian referee Vincic quickly waved away what looked like a simple decision based on the earlier incident.

Newcastle gained a 1-1 draw, but were disgusted by both penalty decisions, with manager Eddie Howe particularly vocal after the game.

Burn and assistant manager Jason Tindall confronted Vincic at full-time.

The defender said: "They got the penalty and I was pretty surprised. The handball rule is different in Europe compared to England. But I was still very surprised."

On the Marquinhos decision, Burn said: "I asked at half-time. The ref said he looked at it and said he did not think it was similar. I thought there were a few decisions that didn't go our way and went the other way."

Newcastle must now negotiate the play-offs and will face either Qarabag or Monaco after today's draw.

Burn felt aggrieved by the decisions, but added: "I thought we played well and we should not let this overshadow the performance we put in. We went toe-to-toe with the best team in the world.

"Did the decisions spur us on? A little bit. It gives you that mentality that is us against everyone else, I feel we always play our best football when we have that mentality. It was a good mature performance from the lads."

Newcastle switched to a 3-4-2-1 formation and Burn admitted it took some time to adapt.

Burn said: "It took 15 or 20 minutes to get used to that. We picked up a result though."

Now Viktor trains Guns on title

BY **RYAN TAYLOR**

VIKTOR GYOKERES hopes Arsenal's all-conquering form in the Champions League can provide a confidence boost for their Premier League title tilt.

The Gunners have swept all aside in the league stage in Europe, sealing top spot with a 3-2 win over Kazakhstan minnows Kairat Almaty.

But the Gunners are without a win from their last three games in the Premier League. Speaking ahead of tomorrow's trip to Leeds, Gyokeres admitted he hopes the team meeting they held in the wake of the defeat to Manchester United, coupled with their latest European success, can get them back on track domestically.

"I think the team meeting was good," said the Sweden striker. "Of course, it was disappointing after the defeat to United and how we lost it. But it can happen in football and the most important thing is how you react and what you do after.

"So, yeah, we try to make sure we do better from now on [in the Prem]. We take first place in the league phase with eight wins out of eight.

"Now we look forward to the knockout stages. We've done very well so far but have to just try to be [in the] present, work hard and look forward to Saturday."

Gyokeres netted Arsenal's opener against Kairat after just two minutes when set-up by Kai Havertz on his return to the starting line-up.

Discussing his partnership with Havertz, Gyokeres added: "It was great to get the ball from him so early on and to score a goal. He obviously did well on the other two goals also, so I'm very happy for him."

GYO FOR IT Striker Gyokeres was on target as Gunners made last 16

ANGRY Madrid's Bellingham

JUDE: IT'S A REAL WORRY

BY **SIMON CASS**

JUDE BELLINGHAM and Kylian Mbappe have savaged Real Madrid's display in their dramatic defeat to Benfica.

Goalkeeper Anatoliy Trubin's stunning stoppage-time header snatched Benfica a place in the Champions League play-offs as Jose Mourinho's side beat his former club 4-2 in Lisbon.

The margin of victory was enough to secure Benfica the final play-off spot, but it consigned Real to a two-legged play-off after they finished ninth.

Real ended the game with nine men after Raul Asencio and Rodrygo both received second yellow cards.

Mbappe and Bellingham agree performances must improve under new boss Alvaro Arbeloa.

Bellingham said: "The duels, the second balls, they won all of them... The basic things that we don't do so well.

"We have so much talent, and players that can produce magic out of nothing, but if you don't do the basics, you'll be punished."

Mbappe added: "It's embarrassing that the goalkeeper scored. We lack continuity in our play, and that's something we need to fix."

Players' reaction just Rosy

BY **BOBBY VINCENT**

LIAM ROSENIOR insists his impressive start to life at Chelsea is down to the players buying into his philosophy.

The new boss (above) has engineered five wins from six games.

Wednesday's 3-2 win in Naples ensured Chelsea go straight into the last 16 of the Champions League.

But Rosenior insisted: "I give the credit to the players. They lost a manager they respected.

"To accept a new manager in the way they have done and for them to work as hard as they have done for me is a credit to them.

"It's not about me or my ego. I'm trying to do the very best I can with my group, and hopefully we can have more and more good nights."

Skipper Reece James, the only player still at Chelsea from their 2021 Champions League final win over Manchester City, said: "It's super early in the competition, but it was a special performance from a special group.

"It's a super tough place to win, especially when they're leading. But we knew we had more to give."

HUGO: I'M MY OWN BOSS

But I serve my fans in Red... I don't care about the others. Hearing my name sung is a dream, says Ekitike

HITTING THE FLOR RUNNING...

PLAYER 1	PLAYER 2	P1 TO P2	P2 TO P1	TOTAL
Florian Wirtz	Hugo Ekitike	2	3	5
Erling Haaland	Jeremy Doku	0	5	5
Erling Haaland	Tijjani Reijnders	2	2	4
Igor Thiago	Kevin Schade	1	3	4

FEELING BLUE Boss Guardiola consoles injured Jeremy Doku

BERNARDO BACKING CITY

FROM BACK PAGE

Guardiola. But he reckons City will only get stronger as the season reaches the final stages.

The Portuguese midfielder said: "Yeah, it's pretty clear that the club decided to go for the renovation of the squad.

"A squad that won a lot, but needed maybe some new blood, in their opinion. They went for it, and it takes time. What I feel is that this team has a lot of potential to be much, much better than what it is now.

"We're definitely in a much better place than we were three months ago, and we were six or nine months ago.

"I don't know from the outside, but from the inside, it feels like every day we're growing.

"I have the feeling that if we have some of the players back from injury, important characters... for example, Nico Gonzalez comes back and you can put together Nico and Rodri, it can be really important.

"When we recover Ruben Dias at the back, it gives us more leadership and character.

"So all these kinds of details, adding to that new blood and to that new energy and the talents that the club decided to go for, this

DEADLY DOUBLE ACT
Ekitike (above) has combined with Wirtz (both left) with impressive results

BY **PAUL GORST**

HUGO EKITIKE insists he is not worried about a hostile reception from the away fans when Liverpool host Newcastle at Anfield on Saturday night.

Ekitike found himself embroiled in the transfer saga involving Alexander Isak's summer move from Tyneside to Merseyside.

With Liverpool courting Isak, Newcastle tried and failed to land Ekitike from Eintracht Frankfurt, in a bid to pair him with their unsettled Swedish star.

In the end, Ekitike ended up at Anfield after Liverpool paid £79million for him, then landing Isak on deadline day for a British record £125m fee.

And the France international striker says he is more than happy he chose Liverpool over Newcastle.

It's understood Liverpool made initial contact over a deal for Ekitike as far back as January of last year.

But as a result of how the summer played, it was put to Ekitike after Wednesday's 6-0 win over Qarabag that the travelling crowd of 3,000 Geordies might reserve some hostility towards him. The striker declared himself unmoved, insisting: "I don't care.

"I play for Liverpool, I have my fans here, we played there [Newcastle] already and won so hopefully we will have a great week of working.

"I don't care about this, I just want to play and help the team. It is simple.

"Obviously we were close (to a Newcastle move) but I made my choice, I knew where I wanted to come so that's all I can give to you.

"The fans' support means a lot. I play for fans, they give me so much energy.

"Sometimes in games when I haven't scored you hear your name from the crowd and it's a great feeling.

'I'm a striker... but I can give assists or make runs for someone else to score'

"It was what I was dreaming of as a kid and it made me live that. So I'm grateful and I want to give more to them to make them happy."

Liverpool's own travelling support were none too pleased after their most recent Premier League trip to Bournemouth ended in a damaging 3-2 defeat.

But Ekitike said: "What I can say is everyone gave 100 per cent of themselves.

"Like every team we have to go through something, but we stick together and hopefully it will go better. We have the quality, I really believe things will go well."

Ekitike was speaking after his 13th goal of the campaign helped Arne Slot's side seal a place in the last 16 of the Champions League. And while he denied he has a personal haul in mind in his maiden campaign on Merseyside, he explained what he is working on to improve his output.

He added: "It's the kind of game where I backed myself to score. They left a lot of space and I like a lot of space as I can use my pace and that's what I did.

"I try to be calm always in front of the goal because I could miss. That's a good thing and I want to keep scoring goals for the team.

"Have I set a target? Not really. I want to make my team win, that's the most important.

"Hopefully I will score a good amount of goals but I don't really even think about this.

"I want to play well and help the team because I know sometimes I know I'm not going to score, but I can give assists or make runs and someone else will score.

"Obviously I'm a striker, so I need to score goals, but I need to do a lot of stuff to help the team."

His assist for Florian Wirtz for Liverpool's second against Qarabag was the fifth time the pair have combined for a Liverpool goal this term, making them the youngest duo to reach that figure since Steven Gerrard and Michael Owen in 2003.

On his burgeoning partnership with fellow Bundesliga arrival Wirtz, the Frenchman joked: "I give him love so I said to him he needs to give it back now! He's a great player, a smart footballer and I like to play with that kind of player."

JURGEN'S COMING HOME!

BY **PAUL GORST**

JURGEN KLOPP will make an emotional Anfield comeback when the Liverpool Legends take on Borussia Dortmund in a charity fixture for the LFC Foundation this March.

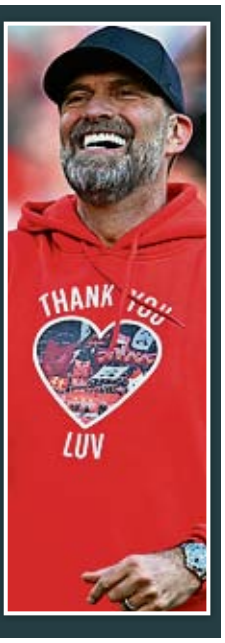
The Reds' squad, skippered by Steven Gerrard, will lock horns with their Dortmund counterparts on Saturday March 28, with all takings benefiting the club's official charity.

Klopp (right) is the Foundation's honorary ambassador and has now been confirmed as part of the coaching set-up against another of his former sides alongside Sir Kenny Dalglish. The Anfield homecoming seems perfect for Klopp given his deep connections to Dortmund, who he managed between 2008 and 2015.

Every penny from the Legends match will flow straight to the efforts of LFC Foundation and Forever Reds.

This year, the money will bolster the Foundation's employability schemes, aiding individuals across the community to secure employment, earn qualifications and acquire new skills through mentoring and training.

The match will also contribute towards the Foundation's long-term goal of assisting 500,000 people per season by 2030.



STRAND BY... MOVE MIGHT BE ALL OVER

JORGEN STRAND LARSEN'S move from Wolves to Crystal Palace was reportedly in the balance last night.

A deal for Palace to sign the the Norway striker for £50million seemed to be progressing before speculation that it might not be happening.

Leeds look set to lose out on Strand Larsen (above) as they are adamant on not paying more than £40m for him.

But Leeds manager Daniel Farke is refusing to rule out more transfer business.

The club have so far added only Argentina midfielder Facundo Buonanotte on loan from Brighton.

Farke said: "It's our responsibility to give ourselves the best possible squad for the run in."

£125K FINE FOR CLUBS

TOTTENHAM and Aston Villa have each been fined £125,000 by the FA after admitting misconduct charges following a melee at the end of their FA Cup third-round tie.

Players from both sides were involved in a confrontation shortly after Villa claimed a 2-1 win at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium on January 10.

The clubs "failed to ensure their players or officials did not behave in an improper or provocative way after the final whistle".

First-half goals from Emiliano Buendia and Morgan Rogers secured Villa's win.

DIEGO COPPS FOR A PARIS LOAN MOVE

BRIGHTON'S Diego Coppola has joined Paris FC on loan until the end of the season to boost his World Cup hopes.

The 22-year-old Italian defender joined Albion from Hellas Verona last summer. But he made just five Premier League appearances.

Italy must go through the play-offs to reach this summer's World Cup.

Seagulls head coach Fabian Hurzeler said: "Getting more game time this will benefit his development, and give him the best possible chance of helping Italy reach the World Cup finals and be part of that."

UNITED NO ON PALMER

MANCHESTER UNITED will NOT be signing Cole Palmer this summer.

United bosses know the Chelsea and England star is out of their price range, and an attacking midfielder is also not on the list of priorities when it comes to strengthening the team. They would have to shell out more than £100million to land the 23-year-old (below), as well as offer him wages of £250,000 a week.

The news will put an end to all the rumours linking Palmer with a potential Old Trafford move.

United chiefs have invested £135m in signing Matheus Cunha and Bryan Mbeumo, and believe this is an area that doesn't need attention.

TO GET STRONGER FROM NOW ON

team has a lot of potential." City have closed the gap on Arsenal in the Premier League title race and are now just four points adrift of the leaders.

And while he couldn't resist taking a sideways swipe at the Gunners' failure to finish top of the pile since 2004, Silva admitted he would rather be in the Gunners' position.

"In my experience here in England, Liverpool have won two league titles and we have won seven, so I've never experienced Arsenal winning the league," Silva said.

"But the truth is that at the moment they're in a better position than us. There are still a lot of games to be played and every season is different.

"Without a doubt, we still have hope and ambition to fight for this Premier League."

Erling Haaland scored his first goal in open play in nine games in the 2-0 win over Galatasaray.

But Silva admits the dressing room never panics when the Norwegian goes a few matches without finding the back of the net.

He added: "At the beginning of the season, he scored so many goals and everyone was saying that it was Haaland FC, right?

"And now he doesn't score anymore? In life and in football, it doesn't work that way. We know the player Erling is.

"We know that with time, obviously, every season he has like one or two weeks or a month where he's not scoring as much as on the other ones, but he'll come back.

"And again, he is back and I'm pretty sure that in the next games, he will be really important for us."

DX1ST

DAILY EXPRESS SPORT
express.co.uk/sport

Raducanu goes in search of coach No.10

EMMA RADUCANU has split with Francis Roig and will now look for her 10th different coach since turning professional.

The writing was on the wall after the 2021 US Open champion lost in the second round of the Australian Open last week to world No.55

BY **NEIL McLEMAN**

Anastasia Potapova. The British No.1 (left, with Roig) said: "I want to be playing a different way. I need to work on playing more similar to when I was younger."

Spaniard Roig, a former coach of Rafael Nadal, joined Raducanu's team last summer. She played her first Wimbledon with Nigel Sears as her coach and won in New York with Andrew Richardson.

Her career since has been blighted by injuries and poor form and a high turnover of coaches - Torben Beltz, Dmitry Tursunov, Sebastian Sachs, Nick Cavaday, Vlademir Platenik, Mark

TURN TO PAGE 54, COLUMN 3

BY **JEREMY CROSS**

BERNARDO SILVA has fired an ominous warning to Manchester City's rivals by insisting their best is still to come this season.

Pep Guardiola's side overcame Galatasaray to reach the Champions League last 16 and remain in the hunt for trophies on all four fronts.

Guardiola has bought 12 new players in the past 13 months to rebuild his team after City failed to win a major trophy last season.

Silva admits it has taken some of the "new blood" time to settle in and get used to the tactics and demands of

TURN TO P58, COLUMN 3

A RAY OF SUNSHINE
Rayan Cherki celebrates his goal against Galatasaray

N FOREST 4 FERENCVAROS 0

IGOR TO PLEASE
Goal hero Jesus

LAST NIGHT'S EUROPA LGE ACTION: P56

ASTON VILLA 3 SALZBURG 2

VILLAN AND HERO
Jimoh-Aloba (right) grabs the winner

BLUE MOON RISING

Silva warns rivals City's best is still to come

POINTED
Silva says City's new faces are beginning to fit in well

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Puzzles

SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, row, and 3x3 square includes all of the digits from one to nine. **Solutions on Monday**

EASY

		9	8		7			1
	6	2		4			3	
7	3			2		4		5
	8		5					
4		1		6	2	9		3
					1		5	
	7		4	1			2	6
	2	4		5		8		
6				7	8	5		

MEDIUM

5				1				4
		4	8					1
2		1	9			6	8	
				6		1	5	
8	1			3		7		2
	2	6						
	6	2			7	8		5
			1		2	4		
1				4				3

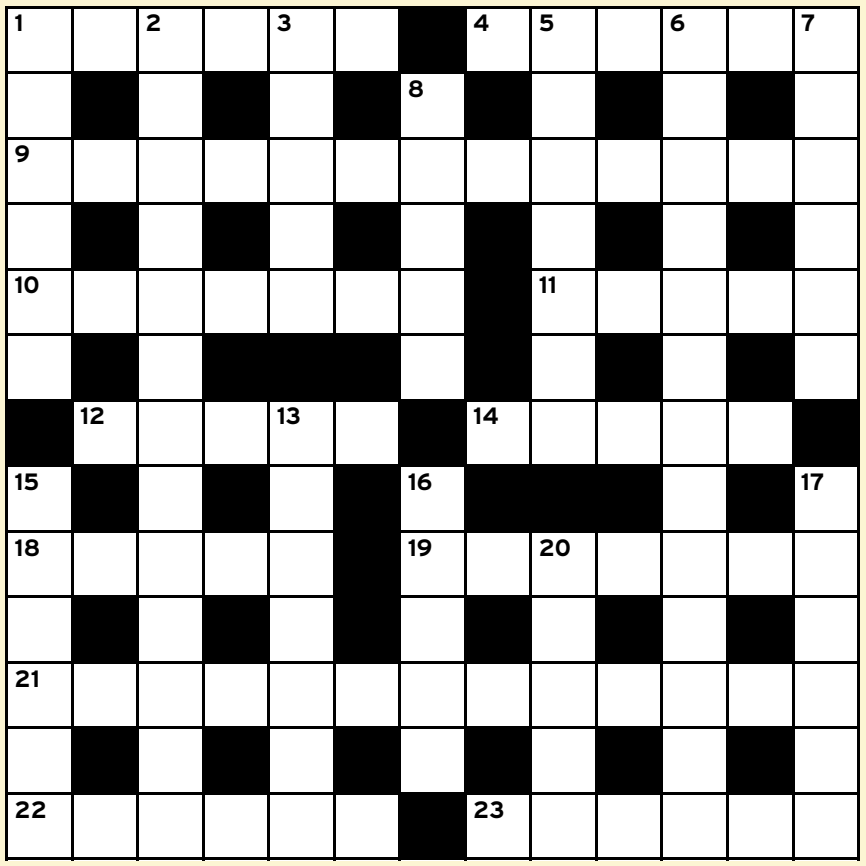
DIFFICULT

		2	4		3	1		
	7	4		1		3	8	
3								5
			5		9			
		7				9		
			1		7			
8								7
	1	5		4		6	3	
		9	2		1	5		

Extra clues: **0901 322 5609**
**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Today's solution: **0907 181 2573**
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Emergencies (6)
4 Account book (6)
9 Remonstrance (13)
10 Wandered (7)
11 Courtyard (5)
12 Soil (5)
14 Cut (5)
18 Rich man (5)
19 Repartee (7)
21 Confusion (13)
22 Triple (6)
23 Diminish (6)

DOWN
1 Pleat (6)
2 Calm (13)
3 Composition (5)
5 Instance (7)
6 Innocence (13)
7 Redeem (6)
8 Lead (5)
13 Generous (7)
15 Devise (6)
16 Fracture (5)
17 Defeated (6)
20 Dough (5)

Solution on Monday

Stuck on the puzzle? Call **0905 789 4188** to hear individual clues or the full solution

Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. Service provider Spoke Ltd - **Helpline 0333 202 3390*

CROSS DOUBT

Target times: Average: **16 mins** Good: **12 mins** Excellent: **8 mins**

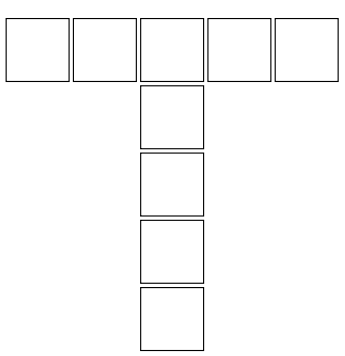
Stuck? Call for a clue
0901 322 5601
Halve your Target Time!

Today's solution
0901 322 5607
Both today's words in a moment!

**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

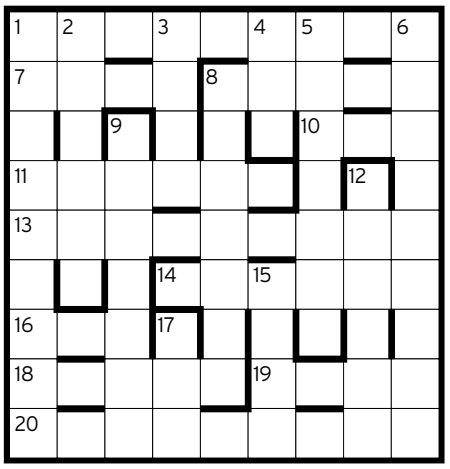
Can you make two common five-letter words from the nine letters given, using each letter only once? You can – but only if one letter features in both words in the squares on the right. There's at least one way to do it, and you have to have the right letter at the crossover – but which one is it?

See if you can find the answer within our target time. If you need help, ring our clue-line below to find out the crossover letter. Solution on Monday



A D I I L M S S S

SMALL CROSSWORD



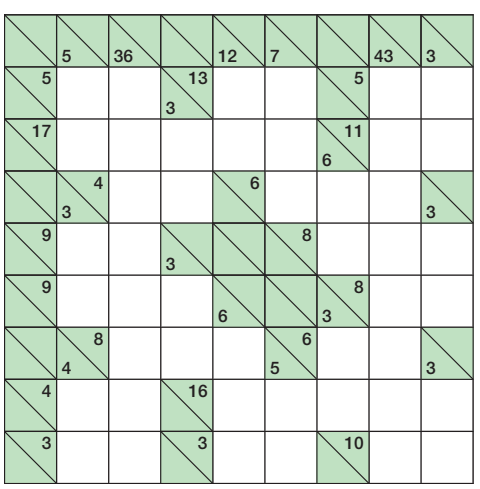
ACROSS
1 Anglers (9)
7 Cancel, take back (4)
8 Slack (5)
10 Playground game (3)
11 Close at hand (6)
13 Meddle (9)
14 Cloth (6)
16 That woman (3)
18 All (5)
19 Verge (4)
20 Interrupted (9)

DOWN
1 Supplied (9)
2 Mean (6)
3 Period of 60 minutes (4)
4 Fish eggs (3)
5 Female parents (7)
6 Decent leg (anag.) (9)
8 Collection of books (7)
9 Ripens (7)
12 River crossing (6)
15 Alcoholic drink (4)
17 _ Garfunkel, singer (3)

Solution on Monday

For today's solution call:
0907 181 2582
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

KAKURO



Fill each sequence of blank squares using the numbers 1-9. Each sequence – across and down – must total the number in the shaded box at the beginning or top of each line. A number may be repeated in each line but NOT in a sequence.

Solution on Monday

Puzzles

ARROW-WORD

Enter your answers as indicated by the arrows, including items connected with our TV star, then read the letters in the shaded squares to spell his character's surname in the Harry Potter franchise (10).

Solution in Monday's puzzle pull-out

Rebellion	Murder Before _, TV show with our star		_ Roth, filmmaker / Shakespeare character		Exams					
Charged particles	Great Lake									
				Healthy						
_ Blue, rare butterfly	Use a sieve									
						Difference		Our star's surname / Alights		
Implore	Negative / _ Moss-Bachrach, Girls actor				Auction / Snake					
			Important occasion (3,6,3)	Force out		Uncooked				
Hide away (4,2)		Italian composer / Burden								
						Commercials (in short)				
Signals assent					Of the item / Line in darts				21st Greek letter	
Manner	Singing voice / Frozen snowman					Statutes		Sound quality		
				Woven fabric						
Our star's first name		Caravan designed for travelling		Capital of Vietnam						
							Tricycle, informally		Hunts	
Opponent				Lass	Stair					
Irish policeman	Encourage / _ Gardner, actress					Fish eggs		Miserable		
					The _, film with our star					
Calf meat / _ Earps, Lioness					Approve					
				Unwelcome plants						

DITLOIDS

If we asked you what "7 D of the W" stood for, you would soon guess we meant 7 Days of the Week, but what are the rather more tricky ones below?

Solution in Monday's puzzle pull-out

1) 10 E in a D

2) 3 M in a B by J K J

3) 4 T M N T

4) 8 B in a B

5) 2 L F

6) 1440 M in a D

MUDDLESOME

We've scrambled up the names of films starring Kate Winslet. Can you work out what they are?

Solution in Monday's puzzle pull-out

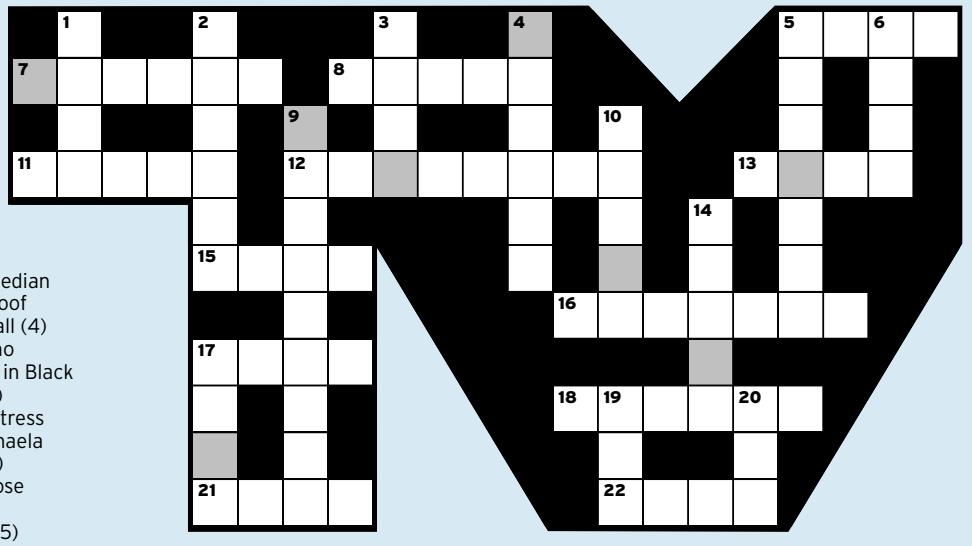
THRILLED CLIENT

TRADE HERE

HEADILY HOT

TV CROSSWORD

Solve our crossword, then rearrange the letters in the shaded squares to reveal the name of a TV show (8).



ACROSS

5 Jimmy ___, comedian who scripted spoof film Fackham Hall (4)
7 Ed ___, actor who played The Man in Black in Westworld (6)
8 Julianne ___, actress who played Michaela Kell in Sirens (5)
11 Teen drama whose stars included Nicholas Hoult (5)
12 Long-running BBC hospital drama (8)
13 ___ Smith, the protagonist in American Dad! (4)
15 ___ Peterson, George Wendt's Cheers character (4)
16 Kelsey ___, actor who played the title role in Frasier (7)
17 & 2 Down Actor whose TV credits include Stick and Loki (4,6)
18 Sophie ___, the new host of The Great British Sewing Bee (6)
21 Waterloo ___, BBC school drama whose stars include Jason Merrells (4)
22 ___ Berry, a former judge on The Great British Bake Off (4)

DOWN

1 ___ Shepherd, late actor who played the title role in Wycliffe (4)
2 See 17 Across
3 ___ Kemp, actor who played Grant Mitchell in EastEnders (4)
4 ___ Donnelly, Ant McPartlin's TV co-host (6)
5 The ___, BBC1 mystery thriller with Holliday Grainger (7)
6 Michelle ___, actress who plays Zoe Slater in EastEnders (4)
9 New Nicole Kidman drama based on the books of Patricia Cornwell (9)
10 Winona ___, actress who plays Joyce Byers in Stranger Things (5)
14 Jameela ___, actress who played Tahani in The Good Place (5)
17 They Think It's All ___, comedy panel show which had a sporting theme (4)
19 Will ___ ___, rapper who is a coach on The Voice (1,2)
20 ___ Poehler, US actress who hosts podcast Good Hang (3

Solution in Monday's puzzle pull-out

QUIZ OF THE WEEK

1 Launched in 1982, what is the ZX Spectrum – a two-seater sports car, a Mars space probe or an 8-bit home computer?
2 Named after her birth year, 1989 is the fifth studio album by which US singer-songwriter?
3 In 1985, which actor joined the cast of sitcom Only Fools And Horses as Uncle Albert?
4 Which English football club won the European Cup in 1981 and 1984?
5 Released in 1985, Money For Nothing was a hit single for which British band?
6 On which Portuguese island, in 1985, was former Manchester United footballer Cristiano Ronaldo born?
7 Which 1987 US science fiction action film stars Arnold Schwarzenegger as Alan 'Dutch' Schaefer?
8 In 1980, which British political figure made her 'The lady's not for turning' speech?
9 Which 1980s US action-adventure TV series features Mr. T as B. A. Baracus?
10 In 1980, the World Health Organisation certified the global eradication of which serious infectious disease?

Solution in Monday's puzzle pull-out

TRIVIA WORDSEARCH

1 The geographical feature known as the Pillars of Hercules lies at the western extremity of which sea? (13)
2 AFC Ajax is a football club based in which European city? (9)
3 Which number Apollo mission was the first to land men on the Moon? (6)
4 Who directed the 2012 sci-fi film Prometheus? (6,5)
5 Which European capital contains an avenue named after the Elysian Fields, the paradise where Greek heroes went after death? (5)
6 Penelope Pitstop first appeared as a recurring character in which 1960s kids' cartoon TV series? (5,5)
7 Which Spanish artist painted The Rokeby Venus, on exhibition at the National Gallery? (9)
8 What is the name of Hyacinth Bucket's long-suffering husband as played by Clive Swift in the popular TV sitcom Keeping Up Appearances? (7)
9 Echo Park is a densely populated area of which West Coast city in the US? (3,7)
10 Which French philosopher published the famous essay The Myth of Sisyphus in 1942? (6,5)

Names From Classical Mythology. Solve the clues and find the answers in the grid. Solution in Monday's puzzle pull-out

T	A	G	A	M	M	E	M	O	N	O	N	M
N	T	F	S	E	L	E	G	N	A	S	O	L
A	Z	O	S	E	T	R	O	N	E	T	S	S
R	E	C	C	T	R	E	S	O	N	R	T	S
S	U	E	A	S	I	T	P	E	A	V	E	E
I	Q	D	I	K	Y	N	L	A	R	E	A	C
S	Z	E	R	E	R	E	E	D	R	D	P	A
S	A	R	K	A	V	E	L	O	E	I	Y	R
U	L	O	A	E	H	R	M	D	T	N	S	Y
C	E	M	N	M	R	C	A	K	I	N	H	K
S	V	O	N	T	A	G	I	G	D	R	O	C
E	R	S	U	M	A	C	T	R	E	B	L	A
S	E	M	A	D	R	E	T	S	M	A	J	W

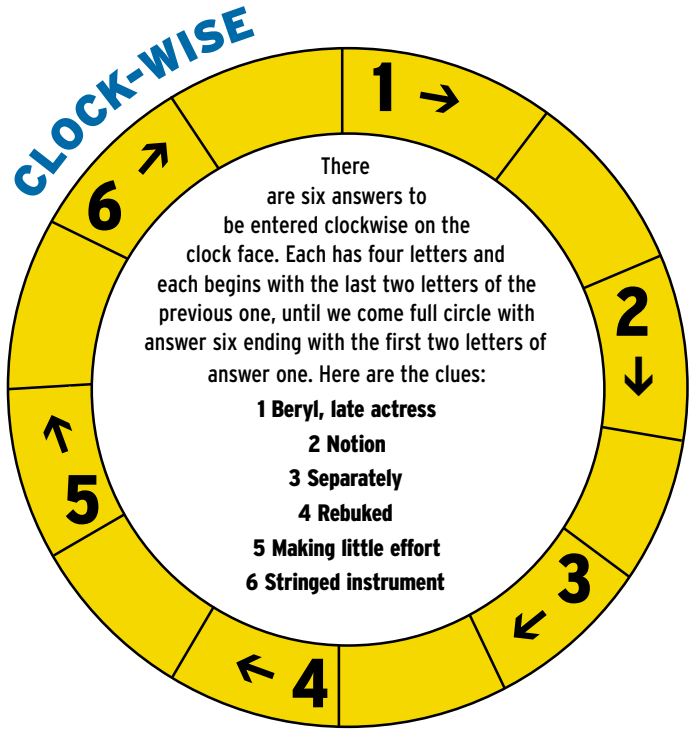
WORDS

In the following passage, the numbers 12345 represent different letters:

4231's 145335 as a 135342 grower got a 5342 boost when he discovered a 5453 hybrid in the 4153 of land he farmed. He couldn't 531422 a hardier breed, and he invested 422 his savings to produce the best 423 ingredient ever. Unfortunately, a local 3452 bought up the whole 4534 to build a 5413 course, so 4231 ran him over in his 145.

Solution in Monday's puzzle pull-out

CLOCK-WISE



There are six answers to be entered clockwise on the clock face. Each has four letters and each begins with the last two letters of the previous one, until we come full circle with answer six ending with the first two letters of answer one. Here are the clues:

1 Beryl, late actress
2 Notion
3 Separately
4 Rebuked
5 Making little effort
6 Stringed instrument

SUMTHING

Fit the missing numbers into the grid so that all the sums are correct – reading left to right or on single lines top to bottom. There are 11 squares to fill, with one digit in each, and the 11 digits you must use are listed below. But where do they all go?

Solution in Monday's puzzle pull-out

	×		=		
−		+		−	
	×		=		
=		=		=	
	×	8	=		

We've given you one digit to get you started. Here are the missing digits to fit in:

1, 2, 3, 3, 4, 4, 5, 5, 5, 5, 9

THE ULTRA ALPHAPUZZLE®

12	20	7	25	■	2	12	4	5	1	7	2	■
20	■	5	■	24	■	20	■	22	■	22	■	5
24	25	1	21	2	■	2	9	15	2	26	24	2
11	■	14	■	6	■	24	■	2	■	17	■	10
1	4	3	24	12	1	10	■	■	8	20	5	3
5	■	■	■	2	■	23	■	13	■	2	■	■
16	2	19	2	26	16	■	5	2	6	5	2	11
■	■	10	■	11	■	1	■	25	■	■	■	5
18	25	1	11	■	■	24	18	23	26	16	10	2
23	■	13	■	7	■	15	■	7	■	5	■	1
24	11	22	5	1	6	2	■	10	2	1	15	24
2	■	20	■	10	■	7	■	2	■	12	■	22
■	7	5	2	12	1	11	2	■	16	1	5	26

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	E											
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

✗ B C D ✗ F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

WELCOME to the ULTRA Alphapuzzle™ – the 'extra-tough' version of Britain's favourite wordpower challenge. Each grid number represents a different letter. All 26 letters are used.

TARGET TIME: 30 minutes.

Solution next Friday

Alternatively, for 6 extra clues to your mobile, text:

DXALPHAX to 64343

Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate.

For up to six Extra Clue Letters, call:

0907 181 2578*

(Deduct three minutes from Target Time for each extra letter heard)

Full solution: **0907 181 2579***
Across only: **0907 181 2576***
Down only: **0907 181 2577***

*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your phone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke. **Helpline 0333 202 3390**

Last Friday's solution
Across: Eddy, Believe, Hinge, Because, Burglar, Shop, Tedium, Fabric, Life, Quietly, Deceive, Toast, Streaks, Zeal.
Down: Exhibit, Lady, Donor, Deficit, Jealous, Wide, Embark, Squeak, Inch, Variety, Voucher, Tease, Help, Crystal.

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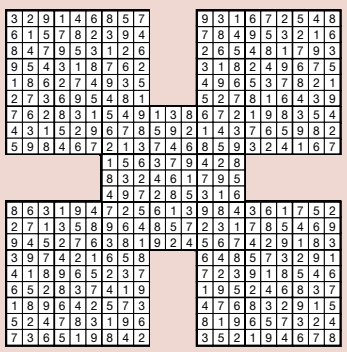
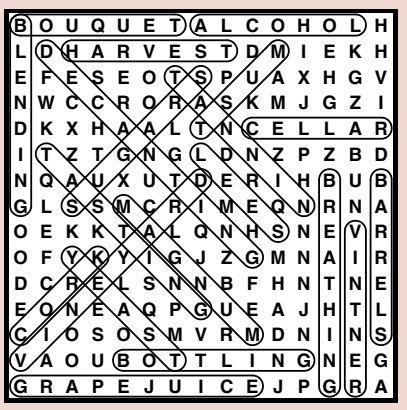
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

SAMURAI SUDOKU



WORDSEARCH



ARROW-WORD

	J		S		O		W		G		B
R	U	S	T	I	C			A	T	O	L	L
	D		Y			A	I	R		A		I
V	E	N	E	E	R			M	O	T	H	S
		H		V	I	E		P	E	A	T	
F	A	S	T	E	N			G	E	E	S	E
	L		E	R	A	S	E	R		T	R	Y		J	
A	P	T	L	Y			P	R	A	T	E	S		S	A	P
	H		L		S	A	M		H			S	O	R	E
T	A	T	T	O	O			A	W	A	R	D		L		T
	B	O	A		B	A	N	A	N	A		L	A	S	T
R	E	P	L	Y		R		G		D	E	A	R	L	Y
	T	E	E		H	E	R	O		A	L	P		O	
				O		U	N	D	R	E	S	S	E	S
S	T	U	B					P	E	T		L	
		L		B	I	R	T	H			A	P	E
D	I	V	I	N	E			A	G	R	E	E	
	N		S	T	E	R	N		T	S	P	
M	E	T	H	O	D		T	E	S	T	Y	

SUDOKU EASY

5	4	3	8	2	1	9	6	7
9	7	1	3	5	6	8	2	4
2	8	6	4	9	7	1	3	5
6	3	7	9	8	2	4	5	1
8	9	4	6	1	5	3	7	2
1	2	5	7	4	3	6	9	8
7	5	9	1	6	8	2	4	3
3	6	8	2	7	4	5	1	9
4	1	2	5	3	9	7	8	6

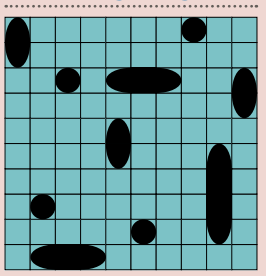
SUDOKU MEDIUM

6	3	4	2	8	9	7	5	1
5	2	9	6	1	7	3	4	8
8	7	1	3	4	5	9	6	2
7	8	2	1	5	3	4	9	6
9	1	5	8	6	4	2	3	7
3	4	6	9	7	2	1	8	5
4	5	8	7	3	1	6	2	9
2	6	7	4	9	8	5	1	3
1	9	3	5	2	6	8	7	4

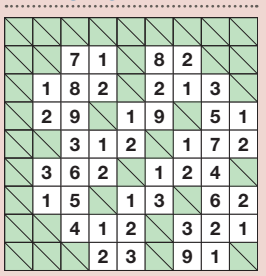
SUDOKU DIFFICULT

2	4	7	6	9	5	8	3	1
6	8	3	7	4	1	2	5	9
5	9	1	8	2	3	6	4	7
8	7	9	3	6	4	5	1	2
3	6	5	2	1	8	7	9	4
1	2	4	5	7	9	3	8	6
7	1	8	4	3	6	9	2	5
4	5	6	9	8	2	1	7	3
9	3	2	1	5	7	4	6	8

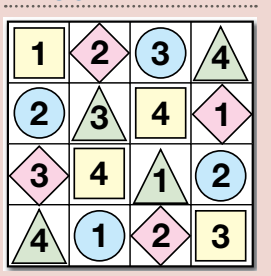
BATTLESHIPS



KAKURO



KEIJO



SMALL CROSSWORD

Across: 1 Signature, **7** Buries, **9** Deposit, **10** Emus, **12** One, **13** Secrets, **14** Ate, **15** Soot, **17** Relieve, **19** Strain, **20** Permanent. **Down: 1** Sideways, **2** Item, **3** Gap, **4** Australia, **5** Tribes, **6** Reins, **8** Sweetest, **11** Scream, **13** State, **16** Oven, **18** Eye.

TARGET

UNPLUMBED
bend, bled, blend, blued, bumped, bundle, duel, dumb, dump, dune, dupe, duple, lend, lumped, meld, mend, nude, numbed, pendulum, pled, plumbed, plumed, puled, undue, UNPLUMBED, upend

THE ALPHABEATER

Black squares: 1, 3, 7, 9, 11, 20, 22, 23, 26, 28, 31, 32, 35, 38.
Across: Upper, Register, Ahoy, Opaquely, Serfs, Owls, Realign, Pave, Smock, Reprisal, Dozy, Transfix, Jetty.
Down: Swap, Rats, Phase, Ego, Firebrand, Barks, Hemp, Axis, Anvil, Pseudonym, Ode, Crypt, Orgy, Sick.

CROSS DOUBT

Across: CHILL
Down: CIDER

SUMMIT UP

84 and 89

THE ALPHAPUZZLE

Across: Jibe, Bedazzle, Machine, Moose, Ounce, Petrol, Equity, Crayon, Quarto, Waive, Knead (clue), Forfeit, Anemones, Stir. **Down:** Jamboree, Okra, Bacon, Ukulele, Bisect, Radio, Exempt, Toffee, Admit, Reward, Zoology, Inept, Even, Ancestor.

WORD BUILDER

Emu, Mule, Lemur, Rumble, Ruble, Blur, Rub

QUICK CROSSWORD

Across: 1 Starting-post, **7** Shear, **8** Reign, **9** Too, **10** Propagate, **11** Outset, **12** Limpid, **15** Inspiring, **17** Arc, **18** Globe, **19** Haven, **21** Protestation. **Down: 1** Shortcomings, **2** Toe, **3** Narrow, **4** Partaking, **5** Spica, **6** Interdiction, **7** Short, **10** President, **13** Plain, **14** Rights, **16** Spoor, **20** Via.

QUIZWORD

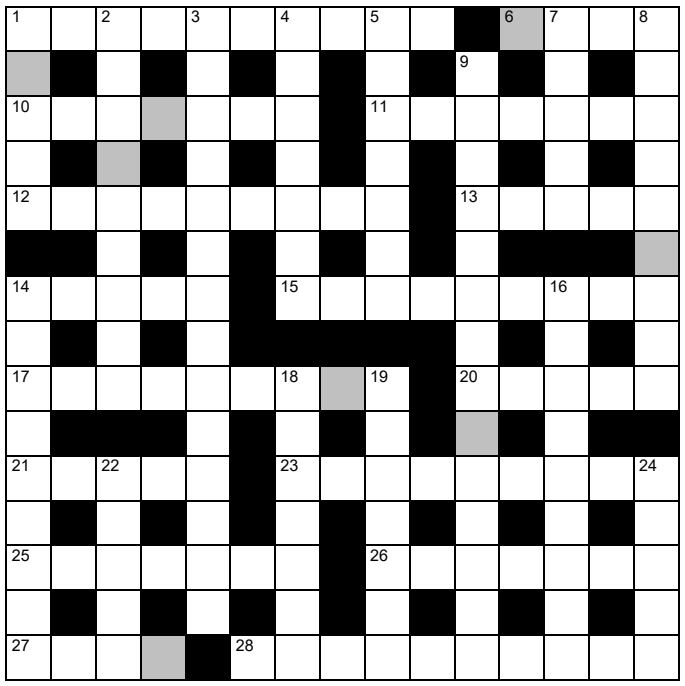
Across: 1 Kael, **3** Ramshorn, **8** Pisa, **9** Birdcage, **11** One Hour Photo, **13** Cancan, **14** Trulli, **17** Good Night, And, **20** Teaberry, **21** Tole, **22** Good Luck, **23** Skye.
Down: 1 Kipkoech, **2** Eastern, **4** Apiary, **5** Siddhartha, **6** Op Art, **7** Neem, **10** Howard Keel, **12** Birdseye, **15** Leacock, **16** Nitric, **18** Otago, **19** Stag.

Puzzles

CRUSADER PRIZE CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Smashing clothes in back of bag (10)
6 Spy's pledge (4)
10 At full speed, driving hazard gets unacceptable (4,3)
11 Thingummy finding question negative (7)
12 Greeting after small wine causes widespread horror (5,4)
13 Lowest point of drain layout (5)
14 Heard European condescend (5)
15 Old woman has removed one group of administrators (9)
17 Loathed having site redeveloped, so wavered (9)
20 Putin's unusual contribution (5)
21 Detectives back holding gold and some architecture (5)
23 Mother, chaotic, ordered a coffee (9)
25 Methodical, about to get swapped for article that's pointed (7)
26 Warned lad tree is wobbling (7)
27 Hearsay about listeners (4)
28 With energy, like Popeye? (10)

DOWN
1 Hits restraints (5)
2 Places to pray in Oregon for a bunch of politicians (9)
3 Obstruct, also deal with, a hoisting device (5,3,6)
4 Find artist started competitive struggle (3,4)
5 Present in this place, or not in any (7)
7 Admitted to being possessed (5)
8 Discouragement to put off tenant's payment (9)
9 Mother ruins menthol solution to lack of food (14)
14 Dry out keys, using dry heat (9)
16 One third of computer, fixed and inserted (9)
18 Mammal can include a ruin (7)
19 Medical order, to make a speech (7)
22 OK, it's a name (5)
24 Like one? In a strange way (5)



WIN £100 CASH

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN
Read down the letters in the highlighted squares to reveal the mystery word.

TO ENTER: Call **0904 161 3700** (calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge) and leave your answer and details, or text **DXCRUS** followed by a space, your answer, name and address details to **88833** (texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate). Lines close at midnight Saturday. Or send your grid containing the answer in the shaded squares by posting it to: Crusader Crossword, January 30, PO Box 8694, Derby DE1 9TW. Entries must be postmarked by January 31 at the latest. For any postal enquiries, call helpline number. SP: Spoke – 0333 202 3390.
An extra day is given for postal entries during bank holidays.
● ***One weekly winner will be the first random correct entry drawn from all entry routes after the closing date of midnight Saturday. Competition runs Sunday to Saturday. The Editor's decision is final.***

NEED HELP? Call **0904 161 1609** for 5 extra clues! Calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge.

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTION
ACROSS: 1 Bearded, 5 Soprano, 9 Disgraced, 10 Rigid, 11 Incisor, 12 Sternum, 13 About to happen, 18 Preponderance, 20 Rackets, 23 Wrestle, 25 Virgo, 26 Demeanour, 27 Larceny, 28 Nudists.
DOWN: 1 Bedsit, 2 Associate, 3 Darts, 4 Decorated, 5 Sides, 6 Porcelain, 7 Argon, 8 On demand, 14 Ozone hole, 15 Oarswoman, 16 Plenteous, 17 Approval, 19 Hearts, 21 Carer, 22 Sadly, 24 Eland. **Prizeword:** Ensnare

TARGET

G	I	L
A	N	L
T	U	U

● *The Target uses words in the main body of Chambers 21st Century Dictionary (1999 edition)*

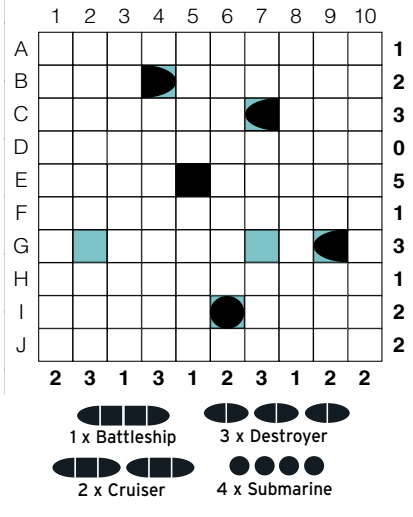
HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word. No plurals. Verb forms ending in S permitted.

TODAY'S TARGET
Good 17; **very good** 26; **excellent** 34 **(or more).** Solution on Monday

Call **0907 181 2585** for today's Target solution
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

BATTLESHIPS

FIND where the fleet of ships shown is hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.
Solution on Monday



THE ALPHABEATER

TARGET TIME: 34 minutes

CAN you crack the Alphabeater? Each grid number represents a letter – or black square. As in Alphapuzzle, every letter of the alphabet is used. But you have to complete the grid too! Use the given letters and black squares below the grid to start. The grid is 'rotationally symmetrical' – in other words, it looks the same if you turn the page upside down.
Solution on Monday

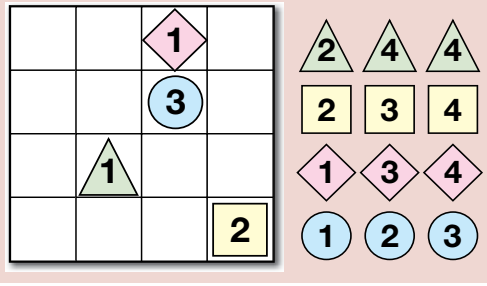
Extra letter clues
0907 181 2560
(Deduct three minutes for each extra clue letter heard)
Full solution
0907 181 2558
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

A	8	40	30	22	6	23	33	29	40	34	10	2	21
B	39	34	28	40	24	6	1	35	16	4	29	12	40
C	25	40	34	5	13	3	28	32	35	15	6	31	27
D	13	10	2	6	32	40	15	6	1	6	39	37	5
E	4	29	37	19	8	35	37	28	4	20	2	1	6
F	15	6	25	10	31	23	19	9	35	17	17	6	10
G	28	22	30	40	2	6	23	23	8	40	16	18	13
H	22	40	23	10	38	23	8	6	18	3	6	33	10
I	31	39	13	40	12	36	19	14	19	8	24	35	19
J	27	16	36	22	24	27	14	11	40	25	39	10	30
K	10	40	29	35	34	35	36	6	1	17	31	35	34
L	17	4	11	37	12	7	16	34	30	31	24	34	8
M	38	39	22	40	26	6	27	10	35	33	12	21	36
N													
O													
P													
Q													
R													
S													
T													
U													
V													
W													
X													
Y													
Z													

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
				K						U					■				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
G															■				

● Alternatively, for six Extra Letter clues to your mobile, text **DXBEAT** to **64343.** Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.

KEIJO



Place the tiles into the grid so that four different numbers and four different shapes appear in each row and column.
Solution on Monday

THE ALPHAPUZZLE®

Alphapuzzle® tests logic and word power. Each grid number stands for a letter. Every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter or letters – below the main grid – to start. Solution on Monday

DIFFICULTY: 6/10; **TARGET:** 20 mins; **CLUE:** Meet South-Easterner up in high regard.

A	7	20	3	23	1	8	■	18	5	16	2	13	8
B	■	8	■	13	■	7	9	12	■	2	■	4	■
C	18	9	23	13	■	12	■	1	■	5	15	1	2
D	■	12	■	2	22	12	1	2	18	18	■	2	■
E	15	4	5	1	■	2	■	5	■	13	19	2	2
F	1	■	24	■	19	2	6	25	18	■	1	■	17
G	5	17	21	19	■	■	2	■	■	15	5	16	2
H	20	■	23	■	1	2	5	6	9	■	13	■	20
I	10	7	13	4	■	18	■	7	■	18	4	21	13
J	■	1	■	5	20	13	7	26	23	2	■	6	■
K	3	5	11	11	■	2	■	23	■	17	5	7	20
L	■	13	■	2	■	2	14	21	■	2	■	17	■
M	24	2	25	6	5	9	■	1	23	20	20	2	1
N													
O													
P													
Q													
R													
S													
T													
U													
V													
W													
X													
Y													
Z													

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
R									K				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	

EXTRA LETTER CLUES: 0907 181 2568*
Hear up to six Extra Letters, deduct two minutes for each clue letter heard.
FULL SOLUTION: **0907 181 2565***
ACROSS ONLY: **0907 181 2561*** / DOWN ONLY: **0907 181 2562***
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Alternatively, for six extra letter clues direct to your mobile, text **DXALPHA** *to* **64343.** *Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.*

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THE DAILY EXPRESS 30-SECOND CHALLENGE

TODAY'S ANSWERS: BEGINNER = 14; INTERMEDIATE = 18; ADVANCED = 496.

PLAY MORE CROSSWORDS AND GAMES AT EXPRESS.CO.UK/PUZZLES